



Drawn by Eve in Year 6

## Village Contacts

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

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

**PC - Matthew.Bensted**  
[Matthew.Bensted@kent.police.uk](mailto:Matthew.Bensted@kent.police.uk)

**Community Warden**  
Peter Gill                                      07703 454190

[Peter.Gill@kent.gov.uk](mailto:Peter.Gill@kent.gov.uk)

**Neighbourhood Watch**  
Simon Dundas                              611320

**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:27srb@sky.com)

**Eastry Cricket Club**

[chairman@eastrycricketclub.com](mailto:chairman@eastrycricketclub.com)

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

# BICKERS

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

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A very Happy  
Christmas to  
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## [Eastry Young People's Contacts](#)

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



### Meetings

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

**Contact** - Chairperson of Eastry Young People's Club  
**Monica Laslett on 07902 303397**

**BUBBLES NURSERY - Contact Kirsty Francis 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**

**RAINBOWS** (age 5-7) and **BROWNIES** (age 7-10)  
Meet on Wednesdays in the Church Hall

**GUIDES** (age 10-14) and **RANGERS** (age 14-18)  
Meet on Fridays in the Church Hall

**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 - Scout Hut

**Group Scout Leader:** Graham Baker 07837 430167 or 01304 611487

**BEAVERS** (age 5¾ - 8)  
Monday 6.00pm - 7.15pm  
Leader Vacant

**CUBS** (age 8-10½ )  
Tuesday 6.30pm - 8.00pm  
Leader  
Contact Graham Baker

**SCOUTS** (age 10½ - 14)  
Wednesday 7.00pm to 9.00pm  
Leader *Vacant*

**EXPLORERS** (age 14+) Meet every other  
Friday from 7.45pm - 9.15pm and focus  
on the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.  
Contact - Graham Baker

**FOR BOOKINGS**  
Contact: Marion Wanstall (617854)  
or group leaders

**NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME**  
Scouting is fun for adults too.  
If you would like to help then please  
contact Graham Baker



The Cross, Lower Street, Eastry, Kent, CT13 0HX

Tel : 01304 611188

thefivebellsastry@yahoo.co.uk

www.thefivebellsastry.com



**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

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Join us for **Carols**  
**Around The**  
**Christmas Tree.**  
Mon 12th Dec  
with brass band.  
From 6pm

Join us for **BURNS**  
**NIGHT 25th Jan**

**'Eastry CAN' Quiz**  
**and All you can**  
**eat Curry night.**  
**Sat 14th Jan**



**Mary and Bryony's Birthdays! Sat 17th**  
**Dec, Live Music from 8pm**

**Karaoke - Fri 23rd Dec 8:30pm**  
**Karaoke - Fri 27th Jan 8pm**

**Clairvoyant Eve 6:30 for 7pm, Thurs 1st Dec, Thurs 12th Jan**  
**Quiz Traditional boxing day Quiz, Mon 26th 11am and 7pm**

**Open Mic Nights, Fortnightly**  
**on Sundays from 5pm**

Keep up to date with our events,



**The Five Bells Eastry**



**@fivebellsastry**



**fivebellsastry**

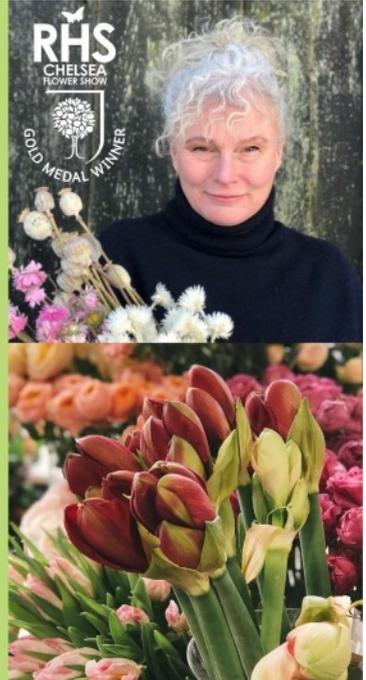
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## Eastry Village Coffee Morning Village Hall 9.00-12 noon



Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December, Fridays 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> January

**All welcome, free tea, coffee, squash and biscuits.**

**Hi Kent Hearing Charity attend the first coffee morning in the month, providing free NHS hearing aid aftercare, advice and battery supply. Mobile Library 09.30-10.00am.**

**Books and puzzle swaps available.**

*Eastry Primary School Choir are singing carols at the coffee morning on 9<sup>th</sup> December and mince pies will be served*

For more info: Contact the Clerk, Jo Jones 07903 739792



The Eastry Village News Committee



**Wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year**

We would like to especially thank our contributors and advertisers for their support, Jinny, Michael and Brian our proof readers and our excellent team of delivery volunteers.



### **Eastry Village News DEADLINE**

is the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to publication - i.e January, March, May, July, September, November. Please send copy to [evneditor@gmail.com](mailto:evneditor@gmail.com)

### **Dover District Council - Bin Collections 2022/2023**

#### **Non recyclable waste**

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

**Tuesdays 6<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> January**

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

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

**Tuesdays 13<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> December 10<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> January**

Please double check your dates on the **DDC website**



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## WALKING NETBALL

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All ladies welcome!

**Every Monday  
11.45am - 12.45pm  
at Northbourne Park School**

£4 per person - Tea and Chat after

For more info email  
[havingaballtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:havingaballtreasurer@gmail.com)  
or  
[havingaballsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:havingaballsecretary@gmail.com)

## Eastry Horticultural Society - Eastry Gardeners

Well here we are again, we started off with the eagerly awaited talk on the beautiful Hares and Foxes found within our area of the country. Sadly, it would seem that the Hare population is rapidly diminishing (rather like the variation I used to have on my head) due to a sad collection of problems such as severe changes in agricultural land use, coursing with dogs, which is rightly and strictly illegal and also the beautiful but deadly Fox which conversely appears to be rapidly growing in numbers much to the dismay of the many local chicken keepers.

Next up on our agenda was the very much appreciated 'soup' evening. Here the 'congregation', which included several of our new members as well as an excellent response from our established clan were able to really enjoy not only the fabulous evening but especially the very tasty soups provided by our wonderful team of Ladies. Jackie and Brenda did a great job in supplying soups of three different flavours, tomato, leek and potato and vegetable, plus excellent fresh bread rolls and butter. This was then finished off with equally tasty fruit pies from Brenda's kitchen and either custard or cream, all finally washed down with tea or coffee. The 'kitchen' staff were kept busy and worked tirelessly all evening, as did all your committee members, well done gang. Whilst the soups were being enjoyed there was a continuous video compiled by Rob displaying some excellent photographic shots taken by members of their respective excellent garden achievements throughout the year. This work of art was much appreciated by all, an annual current version will I am sure be repeated for many years to come but of course to do so Rob will require YOU to take pics of your own gardens during the various seasons.

During the evening, in a very competitive set of competitions there were displays of decorated pumpkins, huge marrows and the normal monthly displays of almost anything. The judging for all of these competitions was accomplished by the members themselves who finally gave their verdicts to Dian for her Decorated Pumpkin and Denis for the Largest Marrow, the winner of the monthly points competition is added to the list of the previous monthly winners the final of which is declared at the end of our year. Incidentally the winning marrow actually weighed in at almost 21kg (47lbs). In the words of Craig the 'Strictly' infamous dance judge - ah.. may..zing.

Our next two meeting nights should both be great fun, first up comes the AGM and social evening followed by the Christmas social evening – oh my where has the year gone? Hopefully, following the very mild autumn we had many of you took advantage of the warm soil conditions to plant up your new perennials ready for next year and to lay any new turf that may have been required. Any new Dahlias required should also have been ordered and of course your winter digging must surely be near to completion, unless of course you are one of the growing number of followers in the no digging fraternity. Well, with our possible space restrictions I guess that must be about it for this month, but I will keep you all updated as and when. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a good and happy gardening New Year!

**John Surridge**

## Dover Flower Club

Whitfield Village Hall, Manley Close (off Sandwich Road), Whitfield, Dover CT16 3LY

### Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 - Club Competition and AGM.

7pm - Staging of Flower Club Competition entries

8pm - Annual General Meeting

8.30pm - Awards and Refreshments

For all enquiries please contact:

Mig Kimpton 07831 838851 or [mig@migkimpton.com](mailto:mig@migkimpton.com)

## The East Kent Ploughing Match 2022

This year's event took place at Stoneheap Farm, Mongeham on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September. There was concern that the long drought could have made the ploughing very difficult but recent rain alleviated that problem.

On a sunny day many tractors with gleaming ploughs were heading for the venue - the site, in a valley, was ideal to view the ploughing by modern machines, ancient steam engines and splendid horses. There was a very good turnout of stalls and competitors including lots of local schoolchildren who were fascinated by the many rural crafts on display - wood turning, basket making, spinning and weaving and so on. There was also a section for their entries in the domestic and handicraft marquee. Perhaps this will inspire some of them to end up working on the land or caring for the countryside.

Lord and Lady Northbourne hosted the event and spent time awarding trophies and drawing out the winning raffle tickets for the 100 odd prizes helped by some of the children. I was awarded the cup for Floral Art in the Women's Section which was first won by in 1956 by Mrs. Miller, Janet Bradley's mother, and by my mother, Mrs. Martin in 1957 so nice to keep it all very local.

The next Ploughing Match is at Hardres Court Farm, Canterbury on 27/09/23.

*Sheila Smith.*



### Eastry Bowling Club - Short Mat Bowls

Eastry Short Mat Bowls has started again. Commencing at 7pm and finishing at 9pm every Friday over the Winter in the Village Hall. If you would like to have a try just come along on the evening- we can provide bowls if you don't have any.

Short Mat Bowls is a fun and social activity for all ages. Come and have a go, it doesn't matter if you have played before or not- all welcome.

Short Mat Bowls equipment has kindly been grant funded by Dover District Council Community Grants"

## A Queens Tale!

**We'll always remember her sense of humour and that beautiful smile.**

I was on the Guard of Honour, waiting for the King of Saudi Arabia, on Horse Guards. On the right flank; Scots Guard (100 guardsmen) a gap, Her Majesty The Queen, mounted in uniform; alongside her the C.O. Colonel Gerald, another gap, then on the left flank, the Queen's Company Grenadier Guards (100 guardsmen).

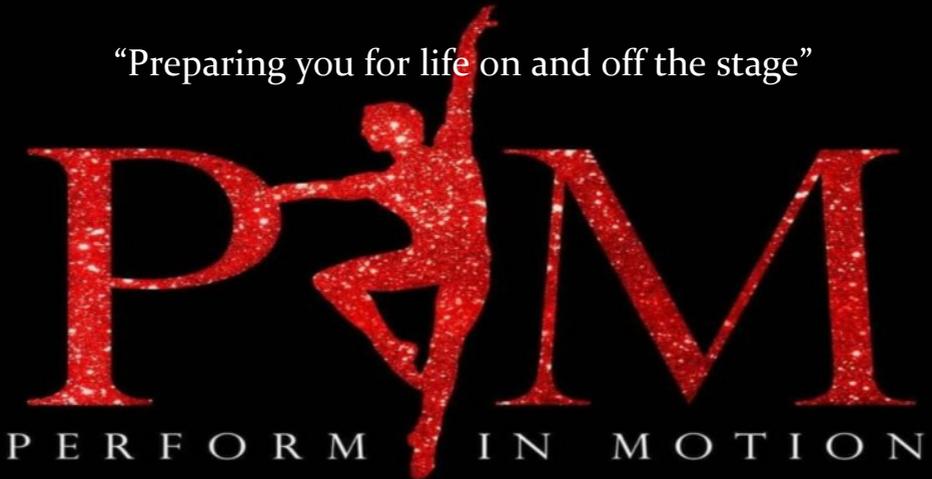
We're stood at ease waiting.

Suddenly the silence was broken by Colonel Gerald's charger breaking wind at full volume for two minutes. Embarrassed and staring straight ahead Colonel Gerald says, "Sorry about that your Majesty!"

She replies, in a wonderful voice, "That's alright Gerald, . . . I thought it was your horse!"

200 guardsmen silently cried with laughter, and tapped their rifle butts on the gravel. From that moment, every man there adored her!

"Preparing you for life on and off the stage"



**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)

## Watling Street - Betteshanger to Willow Woods (2)

I have been asked about a cottage in the woods on the track leading towards Tilmanstone...well that was the Game Keeper's cottage whose mission was to rear pheasants for the winter shoots. Occasionally we would be presented with a brace of pheasants after the shoot had crossed Betteshanger Nurseries. I digress, the track that is Watling Street runs parallel to the old Dover Road towards Tilmanstone and Telegraph Farm. Once a year we were invited into the estate cherry orchard on Home Farm after the organised pickers had finished and the bird scarers switched off for an evening of gathering fruit for the family. What a bonanza that was as most of the preserves we had were strawberries with a few gooseberries or blackberries mixed with fallen apples from the orchards at Betteshanger.

Watling Street could be walked on towards Willow Woods where there was frequently an encampment of gypsies who toiled on the farm as one crop followed another, and then, during the winter they would locate to Beech Wood where they could make pegs and also create wax flowers to adorn the beech twigs which were sold in the villages.

Travelling north from Betteshanger Watling Street ran behind three cottages called Caesars Camps and across the fields towards Eastry where it followed Woodnesborough Lane to Poison Cross then up Foxborough Hill to Woodnesborough Church and then on towards Canterbury. The old telephone exchange for Woodnesborough was called Woden Mill, a tribute to the Romans.

*Sheila Smith*

## Senior Youth Leader Required



**Eastry Young Peoples Club seek a new Senior Youth Leader  
Tuesday or Wednesday evening 7.00 - 9.00pm**

**We are looking for someone who is passionate about supporting young people and helping them grow into confident members of the community.**

If you are interested please contact Wendy Tutton  
([wendytutton07@gmail.com](mailto:wendytutton07@gmail.com) or 07598561886)



# EV FASTCHARGE



**Do you have an electric vehicle** or are you thinking about the benefits of changing to hybrid or fully electric? Drivers are taking advantage of rising energy prices with EV tariffs and solar panel energy to charge their car at home. This is considered to be the cleanest and most cost effective way to put miles into the battery.

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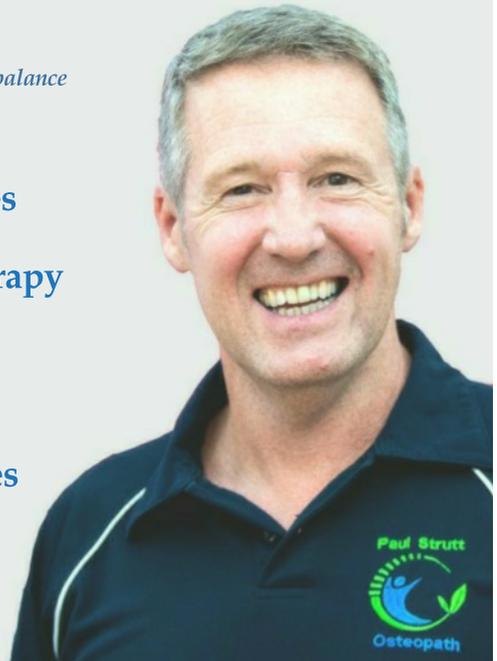
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## Our Christmas Cover Competition

Our wonderful Primary School children submitted 33 excellent drawings for our cover competition. Very difficult to pick a winner - so very well done Eve for winning and well done too to our two runners up Hattie (left) and Hermione (right).



## Eastry Parish Council

The Parish Council are also delighted to report that a very successful 2 course £4 lunch was held in the Village Hall in conjunction with Age Concern. Warm blankets, jumpers, gloves and muffs were available to take home as well as puzzles and books to swap.



It is hoped that this will be a once a month event. Please contact the Clerk Jo Jones for details or if you would like to volunteer to help - ring 07903 739792.

We are delighted that work on the new play area should begin mid-January 2023.



Email: [eastryevents@gmail.com](mailto:eastryevents@gmail.com)  
 Facebook: Eastry Events Team

2023 'Family fun' Fundraisers:

**January**

28th - Beetle Drive

4pm at Eastry Village Hall

**February**

18th - Bingo

4pm at The Five Bells

**April**

2nd - Safari

22nd - Bingo

4pm at The Five Bells

**June**

3rd - Eastry Family Fun Day

at Eastry Gun Park

13.00-18.00

**New for 2023**

**\*\*Eastrys Got Talent\*\***

**Auditions start in March  
at The Five Bells**

**Watch this space, more info  
coming soon**

**Final - 3rd June  
at the Gun Park**

**Beetle Drive**

£5 per adult £2.50 per child

Refreshments will be

available to purchase

Feel free to bring your

own beverages!

**Calling all Eastry clubs and groups!**

Showcase and fundraise for FREE at the Fun Day!

Email us to reserve your free pitch!

For more info or to book tickets for the fundraisers and register for the safari/Easter egg hunt please email us.

To get involved, join us at The Five Bells 7pm - January 19th, February 16th, March 16th

## A Tribute to Richard Swain

Neighbourhood Watch has just heard that Richard Swain sadly died on 29<sup>th</sup> October, after a long illness. Richard was involved in many aspects of life in Eastry village. For many years he was the Chairman of of Eastry Neighbourhood Watch when meetings were held in the Parish Council Room. A team of volunteers delivered newsletters and Richard made Lower Street, where he lived, his priority.

Richard's interests extended outside the village. He was a delegate to Dover NHW Executive and also attended Police Conferences at the Maidstone HQ, In the 1980's when Eastry campaigned for the village Bypass Richard was involved in regular traffic counts to prove the need for this development. Richard and his wife, Sue, initially ran a Youth Club in the Village Hall. Later on a new Youth Club was built in the Gun Park thanks to a grant from the Coalfield Regeneration Committee. Richard served on that committee and undertook training for running the Youth Club. A lot of his time was devoted to the maintenance of Buttsole Pond and prior to that he was the village Window Cleaner. He also maintained the village toilets for Dover District Council and assisted with deliveries of the Parish Magazine.

When Bob Priestley was the first KCC Warden, a team was formed to enter the "Calor Gas Village of the Year" competition in 2005. Richard did most of the secretarial work and we were thrilled to gain a 1<sup>st</sup> prize for the County of Kent at a celebration in Harrietsham. The village was awarded 100 tree saplings specifically for planting at the Primary School. This needed a lot of planning and assistance village from volunteers.

The Village Hall Committee also greatly appreciated Richard's willingness to audit the village accounts. Richard generously devoted a lot of his time to Eastry Village and he will be greatly missed.

***Eastry Neighbourhood Watch***

# Eastry kids say **please** SLOW DOWN!

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the Kent  
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The Country Eye app is now available to download for free on iPhone and Android.

A few simple steps can make a difference



Snap a photo of the suspicious behaviour, incidents or concerns



Tell us where you are or use your phone's built in GPS location



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AS PART OF EASTRY  
FAMILY  
FUN DAY 2023  
FINAL TO BE HELD  
3rd JUNE

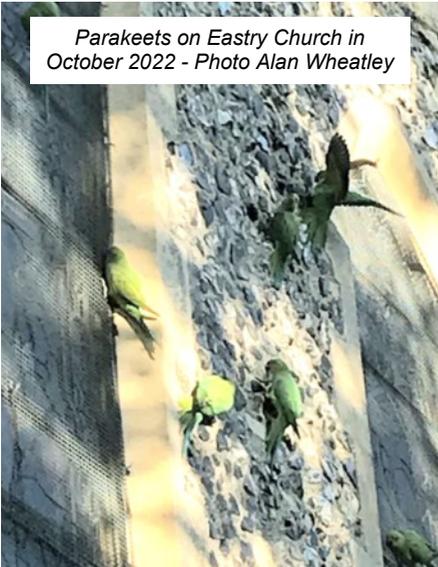
**EASTRY'S  
GOT  
TALENT!**

**\*AUDITIONS COMING SOON\***

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Email us for more info &  
an application form  
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*Parakeets on Eastry Church in  
October 2022 - Photo Alan Wheatley*



**PROTECT YOUR CAR,  
LEAVE IT:**

**1. LOCKED**  
LOCK YOUR CAR WHEN YOU LEAVE IT

**2. LIT**  
PARK IN A WELL-LIT AREA

**3. EMPTY**  
HIDE ANY ITEMS ON SHOW

**SHARE THESE 3 STEPS  
WITH 3 FRIENDS**



## Najam bin Hafeez – our chemist for nearly 30 years

The tragic and sudden death of Najam bin Hafeez at the age of 62 has stunned not only his family, friends and colleagues but also everyone in the village and most of the surrounding area too - everyone who knew where to go for prompt and excellent service and advice.

Najam was a great family man, very proud of his Pakistani heritage, and his wife, three children and four grandchildren were the apples of his eye - his younger son Faiz and his daughter Nida working part time in Eastry to help spread and share the workload. He had a good sense of humour, was diligent, always polite and considerate to both customers and staff and held a strong belief in fairness and equality. Popular and well respected he had a wonderfully reassuring and professional manner.

Everyone you talk to about him has a heart warming story about how he would go the extra mile to help customers. On one occasion a very distressed lady, who was on holiday in the area, discovered she had left all her important and essential tablets at home. Najam sat her down, told her he would sort it all out and within fifteen minutes she was on her way complete with the medication.

Najam took over the Chemist Practice 30 years ago after previously working for larger concerns and this was his opportunity to put his energy and his heart and soul into running his own business. Over time he changed and developed it, all within the limits of the shop, making it an efficient and popular practice for us all.

He loved playing golf and was so looking forward to early retirement, something he richly deserved after many years of hard and often very stressful work. He will be greatly missed by so many people. Thank you Najam, may you rest in peace.

### For Eastry Chemist Girls

God made every one of us, He put us here on earth.  
He takes a look around sometimes to see what we are worth.  
And if He's looking down today in a way that He can do.  
Girls He'll be looking down, especially for you.  
He knows what you are feeling, He knows how sad you'll be.  
So girls please try and keep your chin up especially for me.

Love Rose Beer

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**EASTRY VILLAGE HALL  
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**[evhevents@outlook.com](mailto:evhevents@outlook.com)**

**Eastry Village Hall is a Registered Charity No: 272720**

**Eastry Parish Council...**

still has a few allotment plots to rent and is looking for more volunteers please, to help with the very popular coffee mornings 9-12 noon every other Friday.

## Eastry WI



Hi to you all. We have had quite a busy time recently. It was our 90th birthday in October so we had cake and nibbles. We were entertained by the brilliant Mike the Magician. A really great evening.

Some members have been 10 pin bowling, trips out and about, walking club. Post box topper up for Hallowe'en (see right).



November meeting we played Bingo for sweets. Thanks to some of our ladies for running a craft workshop at Chartham Village Hall recently. It was very well attended. The Poppies are displayed at the Eastry Village Hall as usual. Keep safe.

*Kate Hobbs President.*

### Chestnut Jam with Whisky

*Makes about 1lb - Jar(s) will need to be sterilised and warm  
this works well in small jars.*

#### Ingredients

625g cooked peeled chestnuts, 1 vanilla pod  
375g soft light brown sugar, 2 tablespoons of whisky

#### Method

Put chestnuts and vanilla pod in a heavy based pan. Just cover with water.

Bring to boil then reduce heat, cover pan and simmer for 30 minutes.

Remove vanilla pod, strain and reserve liquid. Purée chestnuts, adding a little of the liquid if necessary. Put chestnuts back into the pan, slice open the vanilla pod, scrape out seeds and add to the mixture.

Add sugar and about 75ml of the cooking liquid.

Bring to boil and stirring often, cook for a few minutes until thick.

Remove from heat, stir in the whisky.

Put into the warm sterilised jars, cover with waxed disks and cover with screw lid or cellophane. Leave in a dark place for at least a couple of days.

It should store unopened for 3 months.

*Sue Hankins*

### The Eastry Book Club Group 2022/2023

has been successfully launched, meeting on the third Wednesday of each month in the Five Bells at 7pm. New members welcome.

## Beacon View Vets Update

Hi Everyone! We hope that you had a great summer and are looking forward to Christmas and the New Year.

We had a wonderful surprise recently when Beacon View won the Inspiring New Practice award at the Vet Dynamics conference! Vet Dynamics celebrate and champion independent veterinary practices. Increasingly, in the UK independent practices are becoming less common as corporates are buying up independent practices and competing against each other for market share.

Corporatisation in the UK veterinary market currently stands at around 75-80%. As an independent practice we are free to invest our team and equipment as we see fit without pressure from corporate shareholders. This year we were proud to introduce keyhole surgery as a service, and are one of only a few vets in Kent to provide this.

You may have seen reports in the press recently about an outbreak of Brucellosis in the UK where an untested rescue dog was imported with the disease. Sadly the fosterer was extremely ill with an infection and four other dogs had to be put to sleep due to the risk of them passing the disease to other people and dogs. Brucellosis was once eliminated in the UK but as a country we are starting to see more and more cases. There are many different species of the Brucella bacteria – the form in cattle was eliminated in the UK in 1985, and is still a Notifiable Disease, but in dogs the most common type is Brucella Canis. The bacteria affects the reproductive tract, a wide range of symptoms occur, including lethargy, premature ageing, pain and lameness. Sadly there is no effective treatment in dogs that will reliably eliminate the bacteria. Infected dogs can show signs of improvement with antibiotics but will become infectious again in the future.

Due to the risks to human health and other dogs, the government rules mean that dogs who test positive have to be put to sleep. At the moment, although Brucellosis is a Reportable Disease in the UK, there is no mandatory requirement to test before or even after import – it will only be picked up if a vet suspects the disease and sends off specific tests for it. Many organisations do routinely test dogs when importing them, but not all. If you rescue a dog from abroad we would encourage you to make sure they have been tested for your safety and that of other dogs.

Our team has continued to grow and we would like to introduce you to Abby, our new receptionist. Abby grew up in St Margaret's and now lives in Deal with her partner and two children. She has a small menagerie of animals at home with a Labrador called Milo, a small crossbreed named Fred, a cat called Magic and Izzy the Shetland pony!

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 winter from all of us at Beacon View,

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**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 7pm (doors open at 6.30pm)**

Tickets are available to purchase for £8 each (cash only)  
at Eastry Post Office **from January 2023.**

Alternatively, you can call or text Hannah at the booking office to  
reserve tickets at any time on 07842107754 and pay for them  
in cash on the day of the show.

Contains the occasional use of strong language and mild sexual references.  
Parental guidance advised.

## Eastry Neighbourhood Watch 2022



There have been a couple of notable thefts in Eastry. A couple of valuable bikes were stolen from a garden shed in Centenary Gardens and also Worth. Electric bikes seem to be a particular target. A van on the High Street was broken into overnight and electrical goods stolen. Such crimes will be posted in this magazine and on the Eastry Community Watch Facebook page for more up to date info.

...[Simon Dundas for Eastry Neighbourhood Watch](#).

### Who is our neighbour?

The Neighbourhood Watch scheme has this year marked its 40th anniversary as a voluntary organisation that cares for the local community. Their vision is a society where neighbours come together to create safer, stronger and active communities. This vision applies equally to the scheme and to us as individuals and households. We are all Neighbourhood Watch!

The 21st Century continues to see the world open up to us with information and social media supported by rapid advances in technology, however this can lead to the question "who is our neighbour"? Is it the person, people or family living next door, in the same road, village, town, county, country or indeed world? (I think you get the idea!) Without wishing to stray into politics, faith and personal belief we will all have a variety of views on the subject, some in agreement and others with a differing opinion. What is important is that we do not allow our differences to prevent us helping our neighbours whoever and wherever they may be.

The cost of living and energy crisis combined with a potential recession will be tough for us all in varying degrees, however in addition to any individual response local Councils, businesses and organisations are working together to reduce isolation, hunger and cold by providing warm spaces for people to gather, talk, drink, eat and keep warm. This is community and can be found in our local villages and towns in churches, halls, pubs, clubs and cafe's.

It is more important than ever to check in with our neighbours young and old alike to ensure that they are not slipping under the radar and going unnoticed. Asking for help can be difficult but asking if you can help will often encourage conversations and make a difference...we are not alone. Additional support is available from the Government through Kent County and Dover District Councils with very local services being available through organisations such as Age Concern, The Sandwich Pantry and Deal Area Foodbank. Please use them...they are there for you!

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Peter Gill - KCC Community Warden - Sandwich, Eastry and Ash

[Peter.Gill@Kent.gov.uk](mailto:Peter.Gill@Kent.gov.uk) - 07703 454190



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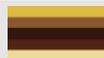
The Domestic Abuse helpline is available  
Monday—Thursday, 9am—5pm  
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## **Charity Christmas Carol Singing**

**at Chalkpit Farm, Bekesbourne, Canterbury, Kent CT4 5EU**

### **A free community led event to raise money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association**

Open air carol singing conducted by Dr David Flood. Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 14:30pm. Whether you are a singer or not; you are more than welcome to join us for a mince pie, mulled wine and a festive hour of cheer!

This is a free event which we have run for over 10 years in memory of those who have suffered from this debilitating disease that affects the voice. Through music we want to raise awareness of a disease that progressively attacks the motor neurones or nerves, in the brain and spinal cord, which means messages gradually stop reaching muscles and can affect speech and movement. ***Telephone 01227 830666 for further details.***

## **District Councillors Report**

A happy Christmas to all our residents. This year has been a mixed year for DDC. The Platinum Jubilee and the passing of the Queen along with the accession of King Charles have led to highs and lows for our community. Responding to the Climate Change Emergency continues to be an important issue.

At the end of last year we indicated the challenges ahead include the continuing work on the emerging Local Plan, and the continued work on the new waste contract. With this in mind we also ask residents to consider the opportunities for recycling cards and wrapping paper over the holiday period.

The award recognizing the Council's support for small business is proof of the commitment to the local economy.

There are still challenges facing the Council and Finance looms over our every move. The inflation pressures will be difficult with inflation affecting our costs while revenue is set to rise much more slowly. Again joint working with Kent County Council and other partners looks to be the way forward to deliver even better services while still achieving financial efficiencies.

There are still many opportunities to further improve our services to our residents as well as make savings to keep the Council's finance position viable.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our residents a Safe Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

***Yours sincerely Nick and Steve***

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## Rector's letter

As we begin the season of Advent, we start our journey together towards the wonder that is Christmas. December is one of my favourite months of the year, we get the crisp chill in the air, the possibility of snow and the distant sound of Carol singing makes the season truly special.

Each year we see the latest adverts from M&S and John Lewis depicting what they believe Christmas is about and even though they are full of advertising the message beneath is often a very touching one, a message of love, family, and peace. This year the John Lewis advert is about a couple preparing to welcome a new child into their family, a beautiful message that surpasses the glamorous and shows a father trying to learn how to use a skateboard so that he will have something in common with his new daughter.

As the season moves on it can be easy to fall into the trap of rushing from one place to another, buying gifts and seeing friends. It is too easy for us to become so wrapped up in the list of events that we forget to stop and be in the moment. Christmas is about the greatest gift that we can share, and that is simply being with our families and spending time together creating memories.

Every year as we gather for Midnight Mass, I am often confronted with the message at the end of Christina Rossetti's carol "In the bleak mid-winter" and everything seems to fade away and it becomes truly special. That final verse is;

What can I give Him,  
 Poor as I am? —  
 If I were a Shepherd  
 I would bring a lamb;  
 If I were a Wise Man  
 I would do my part, —  
 Yet what I can I give Him, —  
 Give my heart.

For the greatest gift, we can offer anyone is that of love freely given. We gather for that late service to celebrate the birth of the one who loved us so much that he came down from heaven in the form of a helpless babe to help us find our way back out of the darkness and into the light.

So as we journey together through the end of another year, we give thanks to God for all the memories we have made and bid farewell to 2022, beginning the new year filled with the hope of a promise that we walk with the one who came down at Christmas to bring light into the world.

So as I finish the last Newsletter of 2022, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and every blessing for the coming New Year.

**Rev. Andrew**

# Eastry Woodnesborough Benefice

## Christmas Services

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent)**

Holy Communion 10.00am  
Evensong 6.30 pm (Northbourne)

### **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent)**

Come and Worship Team 10.00am

### **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent)**

Holy Communion 10.00am

### **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

Carol Service 7pm

### **Christmas Eve**

Crib Service 4.00pm  
Holy Communion 11.30 pm

### **Christmas Day**

Holy Communion: 10.00am

## CHURCH SERVICES IN JANUARY 2023

### **Morning Services**

Sunday 1st January, 10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 10.00am Family Come and Praise

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am Holy Communion

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January 10.00am Benefice service at Eastry

### **Evensong Services**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> January 6.30pm (Northbourne)

Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 6.30pm (Tilmanstone) TBC

**Please note that at this time your Eastry Woodnesborough**

**Benefice Church Contacts are:**

**Rector - Reverend Andrew Brown**

01304 273836 [rev.andrewewb@gmail.com](mailto:rev.andrewewb@gmail.com) (*Andrew's rest day is Friday*)

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)  
+442034815240,,7360055669# or +442080806591,,7360055669#

**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**

### **Wedding**

22/10/22 - Rachael Williams and Jason Williams

### **Funeral**

9/11/22 - Margaret Cock

22/11/22 - Gill Hughes-Wilson

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'At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning'



## 'We will remember them'

Some 200 people, including about 50 young people, attended the Remembrance Day service at St Mary's Church taken by our new Rector Andrew Brown on November 13th. We had a superb turnout by our young uniformed organisations which means a lot to the village. *Photos Nick Smith, Dave Moyse, Alastair Carnegie.*



  
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## Poets' Corner



### Buy two get one free!

Buy two festive chickens get one free, an offer not to be missed?

I love a bit of ole boiled bird, at a price I couldn't resist!

I left the stock pot simmering, as I nipped to the local store

I hadn't been home very long; I had a hell of a shock for sure!

My bag just started moving, and clucking from inside

Out popped three live chickens, I swear I almost died!

My hopes of Christmas dinner, were dashed with every cluck

Instead of plucking feathers, I was cleaning up their muck!

Oh! How very disappointing, there would be nothing today for me

Apart from a runny boiled egg, and clucking chickens for company!

*Lin West*

### Christmas Elf



We have a very naughty elf, who is supposed to sit upon the shelf.  
But every time when left alone, the mischief he gets up to I just can't condone.

Flour, sugar and rice to name but a few,  
all tipped around the kitchen, like a storm had passed through.

Sometimes on returning he's hanging from the light,  
occasionally he's in the fridge, having eaten the angel delight.

And now his latest trick is hiding in the car,  
all these little antics are really quite bizarre.

I have even tried to curb him by putting him in a box,  
but that does not deter as he just knocks and knocks and knocks.

So now I've come to realise he's just a lonely soul,  
who would benefit from coming with us for a stroll.

So when we go out shopping he jumps into my bag,  
and now that naughty elf is no longer, such a scallywag.

*Shirley Hopkins*



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## Animals you can see (fairly) easily locally: The Brown Hare

Brown Hares (*Lepus europeaus accidentalis*) are peculiar to Britain. They are darker and browner in colour than their continental cousins and are larger than the blue (Scottish highland) and Irish hares. Perhaps their most distinctive features are their very large, upright ears and their love of boxing. The latter, a behaviour primarily about attracting a mate and repelling other rival males is often seen at all times of the year. Watching pairs or small groups of hares racing to and fro, rearing up and 'boxing' with their forelegs, it is hard to resist the feeling that they are often simply having fun.



All hares are larger than their rabbit cousins but they eat the same foods, plants, particularly arable and garden crops so they can be pests but they do not form swarms as rabbits do so their impact is considerably less. Nonetheless they are persecuted. Hare coursing, hunting them with dogs is cruel and illegal but still occurs; sadly I have seen it occur in our local area.

Brown hares breed at all times of the year. The females give birth to 3 or 4 young in Spring, 1 or 2 in Autumn generally. The young are protected in '**forms**', crude nests of flattened grass hidden within taller vegetation, often one or two in each of several 'forms'. The mother visits each in turn to suckle the young. Infant survival rates in hares are much higher than in rabbits. In rabbits and hares, the number of eggs produced by the mother increases when she has plenty of food and these are fertilised and form embryos which implant in the womb but, unusually among mammals, if food becomes scarce some or even all of the embryos are **resorbed**, they break down in the womb and the nutrients they contain are reabsorbed into the mother's blood stream.



Plant food is difficult to digest, mainly because no mammals (not even us) can produce enzymes to digest cellulose, the material which makes up the cell wall enclosing all the other nutrients in most plant cells. (this explains the scene in 'Blazing Saddles' after the cowboys have eaten lots of beans!). Micro-organisms can produce the enzymes and these live in the **caecum** of the rabbit or hare (we don't have one of these, it has regressed leaving only the **appendix**, a lymph node to control the micro-organisms). Rabbits and hares practice **refection**; they eat plants, pass it rapidly through the gut to break it down into tiny fragments, egest these as soft faecal pellets then eat these (all at night, so we are spared seeing this distasteful activity!). The material is then fully digested in the caecum to get lots of nutrients into the blood before, finally, the hard faecal pellets we are familiar with from rabbits and hares.

*Terry Wood*

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for photos, experience etc see

**TheWhistlingGardener.co.uk**

## Gardening on the other side of the fence (10 )

### Green gardening resource guide

As long winter months approach, I thought you might appreciate some information and reading suggestions about the world of green and wildlife-friendly gardening.

[www.wlhf.org](http://www.wlhf.org)

website of the Wildlife Gardening forum has a linked Facebook group.

[www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/wilder-gardens](http://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/wilder-gardens) -

Advice from Wildlife Trust and details of open gardens.

<https://charlesdowding.co.uk/> - UK's pioneer of modern no-dig gardening.

Also an author of many books and lots of Youtube tutorials and tours of his commercial no-dig garden.

<https://edibleculture.co.uk/> Faversham based plastic free plant nursery.

Bag for Life peat-free compost scheme and supplies some veg seeds by number/weight and loose fertilisers.

<https://www.organiccatalogue.com/> - Organic plants and supplies

[www.organicbulbs.com](http://www.organicbulbs.com) - Supplier of organic bulbs

<https://dogwooddays.net/2020/04/30/updated-peat-free-nurseries-list/>

Sources of peat-free plants

### PODCASTS:

<https://audioboom.com/channels/4987940> - Garden Organic's monthly podcast

<https://joegardener.com/podcasts/> - Joe Lamp'1, USA's high profile green gardener

<https://rootsandall.co.uk/podcasts/> - Award winning sustainable gardening podcast

### YOUTUBE

<https://www.youtube.com/c/WildYourGardenwithJoelAshton> - UK's leading wildlife garden designer.

You can also find interviews or content from some of the book authors listed below - **all are available from Kent Libraries.**

*The Garden Jungle or Gardening to Save the Planet - Dave Goulson*

*Gardening For Bumblebees - Dave Goulson*

*The Secret Lives of Garden Bees - Jean Vernon*

*Attracting Garden Pollinators - Jean Vernon*

*No Nettles Required – The Truth about Wildlife Gardening - Ken Thompson*

*RSPB Gardening For Wildlife - Adrian Thomas*

*RHS Companion to Wildlife Gardening (2016) Revision due soon - Chris Baines*

*Various books on no-dig gardening and vegetable growing - Charles Dowding*

Here's hoping for a mild winter. More in 2023, **Jeff "the Bee Friendly Gardener"**

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## Bird Watching with Big Nick

Back in the early 1980s I went to Stodmarsh with some friends to see a bird which was rare in the UK at the time, it, or rather they, were Glossy Ibis. Three birds would fly into the reed beds most evenings to roost. At the time it was quite a coup to see one in the UK. Glossy Ibis are quite big, heron-like birds with a large curved bill and when the light is right, they have richly coloured feathers of greens, purples and bronze. In Europe, they usually live in the Mediterranean region but have a large global distribution.

At that time it was thought that they might be the next species to colonise the UK from southern Europe, as it turned out, they weren't; several other species, notably the Little Egret and even Great White Egret have done that. However, sightings have increased over the intervening years to the point that they are now seen every year in numerous locations around the country, and more to the point, in Kent.

This year alone, 11 birds were seen flying over Sandwich Bay in January; several appeared at Dungeness in the summer, two of which remained for several weeks. They have also been seen at Stodmarsh, Worth Marshes, Oare and Elmley. It's not possible to say whether these sightings are of the same birds but it is quite likely, but it does show that they are being seen much more frequently.



In August I went to Dungeness to see the two remaining Glossy Ibis, one of which was feeding very close to the hide giving great views. However my best photos came from an unexpected location. I heard that one had been seen in a small pond near some of the new housing on the edge of Sholden. I used Google satellite images to locate the pond and went there with little expectation of success, but I was soon proved wrong. Feeding happily on water snails and any other aquatic life it could find was a splendid Glossy Ibis. It was incredibly confident and barely took any notice of people passing by – or even my wife and I sitting on the bank of the pond photographing it.

So maybe the predictions of it colonising the UK may soon be fulfilled, watch this space!

*Nick*

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## Rose Beer - Festive Poems

### Me an Angel?

I'm the angel off the Christmas tree, my wings are torn and tattered.

They keep me in a box all year so now me halo's all shattered!

When they fix me on the tree, those prickles really hurt.

They fix me with a rubber band and a light shoved up me skirt!

The soldiers and the snowmen look up my skirt and stare,

but all I can do is blush with shame at me tatty underwear!

Last year baby made a grab for me, it twisted me head and made me wince,  
then me arm came out its socket and it's never been right since!

I've heard 'em say I'm past it and my better days have passed  
so I wish you all a Merry Christmas, cos this will no doubt, be my last!

### Santa's Letter

Dear Santa, as you creep into my bedroom and tiptoe to my bed  
you will notice I haven't hung a stocking up, I've left an envelope instead.

Now envelopes hold money so I hope you'll get the clue.

You see I haven't got a lot and I don't know what to do!

I'm told I need a new boiler, cos this one's really old,  
and the days are getting colder now and I'm old and feel the cold.

I know you won't get a boiler to balance on your sleigh,  
so if you could leave some money in the envelope it would make  
an old lady's Christmas Day!

### Frosty

I built myself a snowman as handsome as could be.

I thought I'd treat him as a friend and let him sleep with me!

I made him some pyjamas and a night cap for his head,  
but in the morning he had gone, tho' not before he'd wet my bed!

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