

The
Eastry
Village News



February 2024
March 2024



Village Contacts

Ambulance, Fire, Police
999

Police Community Support 101

and non-emergency Police

PC-Matthew Bensted

Matthew.Bensted@kent.police.uk

Community Warden

Peter Gill 07703 454190

Peter.Gill@kent.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Watch

Simon Dundas 611320

Gas Emergency 0800 111999

Highways Faults 03000 418181

UK Power Network 105

Doctors Surgery 619790

The Market Place, Sandwich

Emergency out of hours 111

Eastry Twinning Association

Chairman: Nick Smith 01304 617035

Eastry Parish Council

www.eastry-pc.gov.uk

www.facebook.com/EastryPC

Chairman: Mark Jones

Vice-Chairman: Deborah Russell

Clerk to Council

Mrs. Joanna Jones 01304 746036

clerk@eastry-pc.gov.uk

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

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)

Eastry Cricket Club

chairman@eastrycricketclub.com

www.facebook.com/EastryCricketClub/

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Eastry Young People's Contacts

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

Meetings

**Tuesday and Thursday nights
for 10-18 year olds - 7pm to 9pm**



Contact - for further information via our Eastry Young Peoples Facebook page or **Monica Laslett on 07902 303397**



Girlguiding
Eastry

Rainbows (4-7) and **Brownies** (7-10), meet on Wednesdays
Guides (10-14) and **Rangers** (14-18) meet on Fridays

Contact us



Join us



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10th Deal Eastry Scout Group - Scout Hut

Group Scout Leader - Graham Baker 07837 430167 or 01304 611487
10thdealeastryscouts@gmail.com

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

CUBS (age 8-10½)
Tuesday 6.30pm - 8.00pm
Leader Jonathon

SCOUTS (age 10½ - 14)
Wednesday 7.00pm to 9.00pm
Leader Graham Baker

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 HQ BOOKINGS
Contact: Marion Wanstall (617854)

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME
Scouting is fun for adults too.
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Andy's Quiz 7pm start, Sat 24th Feb, Sunday 31st
Eastry CAN Quiz 7pm start, Sat 17th Feb, Sat 16th March


fivebellsastry

The Five Bells Eadry

All you can eat Curry Night. £12.50pp. Fri 1st March (Booking highly recommended)

Mother's Day. Afternoon Tea from 2-5pm
Sat 9th March, Sunday 10th Mothers Day Lunch/Dinner 12-8pm

Fri 15th March – St Patrick's Fun & Games, live music with Richie Triangle from 6-8pm

Beer, Cider & Music Festival

Easter Weekend, Fri 29th March – Mon 1st April, raising money for The Rainbow Trust


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Eastry Village News: Far and WIDE.

Welcome to the February/March edition of the EVN. The cover photograph shows the church at sunrise on a very cold winter's morning but many of our contributors are looking forward to the warmer months ahead. Road safety and on-line safety are also prominent themes. Two important consultations - DDC's plan to charge for parking in Eastry, and KCC's plan to remove funding for Chillenden Mill - occurred between issues. However, no doubt the outcomes of these will be discussed in future editions.

While EVN is read in the Eastry and Woodnesborough areas we have recently discovered it reaches as far afield as Houston, Texas. If you know of far away places that EVN reaches please e-mail the editor with the subject line "far and wide"

David Thomas (editor)

Road Safety in Eastry



Recently Community Warden Peter Gill and PC Jon Bowler (seen here) have been working to ensure road safety outside Eastry Primary School.

They have been working with drivers educating them about safe parking practices in the vicinity of school for the benefit of the children attending there. Banners supporting this work have also been erected outside the school.

(Picture used with permission)



Go SLOW Bro!
Please drive safely.

**SLOW DOWN
for Eastry**





Eastry Village Coffee Morning **Village Hall 9.30-12 noon**



Fridays 2nd and 16th February
1th & 15th March 2024.

Age Concern Lunch 16th February and 15th March.
(£4 for the over 50s)

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

Mobile Library 09.30-10.00am.
Books and puzzle swaps available.

Hi-Kent Hearing Aid Charity - 2 Feb, 1st March & 5 April -
10am-11am

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

Eastry Village News DEADLINE

is the 14th of the month prior to publication - i.e January, March, May, July, September, November. Please send copy to evneditor@gmail.com

Dover District Council - Bin Collections

Non recyclable waste

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

Tuesdays 13th, 27th February 12th, 26th March 2024

Recyclable Waste *Blue topped wheelie bin and Food Bin*

Plastics, tins, bottles, paper and cardboard.

Tuesdays 6th, 20th February 5th, 19th March 2024

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

<https://www.dover.gov.uk/Recycling--Waste/Bins-Recycling.aspx>

Eastry Horticultural Society - all Eastry Gardeners

Wow, what a super way to end another fabulous year with our ultra friendly group of gardeners. Our special thanks must go to all those Committee members who throughout the year have played a massive part in the success of the club. On the evening of our last meeting of the year all of you club members managed to bring in an amazing display of party goodies which were then spread out in an enticing manner so that everyone could, and did, manage to have a very tasty and enjoyable evening of amazing snacks. To make the evening even better there was a solid evening of guitar music and vocals by our long time friend Barry whose music as always, was well suited to our taste. So good was the atmosphere that he created that in no time at all he had half of the audience up dancing, though sadly I must confess 99% of the dancers were the ladies with the 1% of males being Glynn. Jacki, Brenda, Rob and Trev as is normal did the majority of the hard work ably assisted by the other committee members and of course a few of you, the members. We all say a huge thank you to you all.

Now on to 2024, well for a start come February you will all be able to get your programs for the year which will lay out another full and exciting series of events, with lots of excellent speakers and interesting subjects already set up by Jacki. So if you are just one of our many magazine readers at the moment why not come and join us.

On to the new year, before getting too involved in planting veg's, flowers or shrubs etc it is really important that you get to know the make up of your soil. If you are still a digger remember that the top soil should only be turned over, not buried as this is the living part of the soil which contains all the good aspects of nature. Sadly around here we have a vast difference in soil types ranging from chalky right through to very heavy clay and alkaline through to acidic. It really does depend on the make up of yours as to what plants you can successfully grow. But, whatever the make up of the soil all will really benefit by regular boosting by manure and suitable soil improvers. If you choose to manure I think it is wise to remember that cattle farmyard manure is a better bet than stable manure due to the fact that cattle have a better digestive system than horses meaning that their dung is much more weed free.

Unfortunately that has to be it for this issue as I recently suffered a heart attack and was hospitalised, they released me for Christmas but I have to resume treatment in the new year, until then I wish you all a Very Happy New Year, I will hopefully catch up with you all in time for our next meeting and magazine issue.

John Surridge

We at EVN would like to wish John a speedy recovery and wish him and his family well. (Editor)

Dover Flower Club

Meets on the Fourth Monday of the month at 7.15 pm at Whitfield Village Hall, Manley Close, Whitfield CT16 3LY.

Our friendly club is always delighted to welcome new members.

Spring meetings are as follows:

Monday 26th. February, Floral Demonstration by Susan Shaw entitled 'Chasing Rainbows'

Monday 25th. March, Floral Demonstration by Elouise Hasler-Scott entitled 'Spring Walk'

Monday 22nd. April, Floral Demonstration by Iris Shaw, entitled 'Anything Goes'

For more information contact:

Mig Kimpton at: 07831838851



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**TABLE TOP SALES
MAKERS MARKETS**

SUNDAY 4th February

SUNDAY 24 March

09:00 – 14:00hrs

Refreshments available all day

TABLES FROM £15.

TO BOOK A TABLE PLEASE

CONTACT 07850114566 or

evhevents@outlook.com

Eastry Village Hall is a Registered Charity No: 272720

Eastry Village Hall Updates.

Last year saw a number of fundraising events held at the hall to help support this facility in the heart of the village. These ranged from informative presentations with local content (thanks Nick Smith) and a monthly Table Top sale. The year ended with a Christmas fair complete with a Santa's Grotto where free gifts were available for each of the 49 local children that sat on his knee. Many thanks Eastry Events for their support.

This year starts with a Race night on Jan 27th and then a Table Top sale on the 4th Feb. Please come along if you can. With spiraling costs, especially around energy, the need for the community to support these activities has never been greater

On the 24th of March Eastry Events are staging the Eastry Safari Garden Sale. The idea is that households in the village root out the treasures that they no longer use or need and present them outside their house for sale. In order for buyers to navigate their way to the sellers, a map will be available for £1 at the Village Hall and at The Five Bells Pub. To get your house on the map as a seller contact Eastry Events (contact details shown below).

Simultaneously there will be an Easter themed sale at Eastry Village Hall which will be promoting the best of handmade goods from local artisans plus maybe a couple of Bric-a-Brac stalls. Coming into Eastry on that day then will give you many opportunities to bag a bargain.



EASTRY GARDEN SAFARI
24 March 9am–2pm
Plus Table Top Sale and Cafe
at Eastry Village Hall

Easter Egg Hunt **Meet the Easter Bunny!**

Put your house on the map & sign up
your Garden Sale for £5

£1 - MAPS ON SALE AT THE VILLAGE HALL
& THE FIVE BELLS PUB

eastryevents@gmail.com
Proceeds to Eastry Village Hall

 **EASTRY EVENTS**



Eastry Bowls Club (EBC)

Located in Church Street, Eastry, EBC is a small friendly club which welcomes old and new players of whatever ability or skill. There is a small green and we play 4 rinks- because of this the Club focus is on friendly and Club games. Playing outdoors is very different to the indoor game but many people play indoor and outdoor over the year. The outdoor season on the green will begin in April.

Free coaching and bowls can be provided and if you would like to try your hand at bowling outdoors please contact Phil on 07825 334077 for more information.



Keeping Safe On-Line

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ourwatch.org.uk/passwords

OurWatchword Watch Software is a service registered in England & Wales. 120186 17171248

As more and more of our lives move "on-line" a few simple steps can help to make us safe - not least being careful with our passwords. In addition to the three steps shown in the diagram extra protection can come from using different passwords for different accounts, using longer passwords, and ones which include a mixture of upper and lower case letters, numbers and symbols.

Can you spare a few hours to help us?

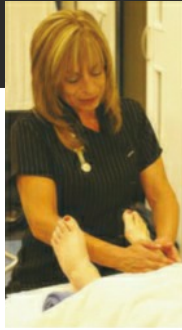
The Eastry Village News is still looking for someone to join the committee as our Distribution Supervisor. The job is to get the printed copies counted, allocated and delivered to our loyal band of distributors (all local). It takes about 4 hours in total every other month and is not too onerous.

If you would like to help or more information please contact Patrick Clarke on 01304 611224 or email evnsecretary@gmail.com

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Please pick up after your dog out of respect for fellow villagers and their children.

Eastry Neighbourhood Watch - Latest

Recent fraud scams to be aware of:-

Fake Emails impersonating Temu (an on-line marketing company).

This scam involves emails from the on-line company telling you can win free products by simply clicking on a link and completing a quick survey. The link will take you to a realistic looking website that is under the control of the criminals, where they will steal your personal data.

Latest QR code scam

Thames Water have advised that they have been made aware of a fake letter sent to some customers, containing a QR code which directs them to a fraudulent website offering help with paying their bills. The website then goes on to ask for personal information such as date of birth, address and passport number. It is a SCAM.

Thames Water have outlined that they would **never ask customers for their personal or financial details, access to their online account or for any urgent action or a rushed decision.** They "take the security of (their) customer,s information very seriously and do everything to make sure their data is well protected." Its possible customers of other water companies might be targeted in similar ways.

Always report suspicious emails by forwarding them to:
report@phishing.gov.uk

If you think that you may have been a victim of these or any other type of scam contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at :-

www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040

You can report a non-urgent crime online at:-

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The Journey Towards the Empty Tomb.

With Christmas now past, we are already in February, and we begin our journey towards the glories of the Easter season. But before we get to Easter, we have to get through Lent- and it is about this time of year we start to think about what we might be giving up for those forty days.

Now before we immediately jump to giving up chocolate or crisps, it is important to remember that Lent isn't simply about adjusting our diet. Rather, it is a time when what we give up helps us to focus our energy into developing our relationship with God and giving something back to the world around us.

Each year at the Vicarage, I try to give something up...and if (or when) I fail, I put some money into a small pot which at the end of the season gets donated to a particular charity. My aim this year is to try to give up on making any comments that could be perceived as negative (not always easy as a blunt Northern Irishman!)- instead focusing on the positive gifts of God's world around us and giving positive affirmation. My wife believes that my little money pot may end up rather full but I shall do my best! At the end of the day, it is my hope that I will be able to reflect the love that God has for me outwardly and, in turn, that others will do the same.

Lent is a season in which we prepare ourselves to join Christ as he journeys to Jerusalem and experiences the hardships that follow, ultimately leading us to the cross. It is for those reasons we have that focus on giving something up. But in that time we are also drawn closer to God as we prepare for the Holy Week and the wonders of the Tomb left empty.

God gave us a wonderful creation to enjoy both when it's glorious and when it's a little less glorious, when nothing seems to be going right. Each of us has a choice how we respond not only for the next forty days but for the rest of the year. We can go forward with that focus of making the most of what we choose to give up bringing us closer to God and those around us, or we can simply let it pass as if it were simply another season of change. Either way, let us do it in a positive spirit and perhaps we can make a difference here in our village. What might seem like a small thing to us makes a massive impact on others.

So if you give something up or take something on, I wish you every blessing in this season of Lent and look forward to seeing you when we come to celebrate the wonders of that glorious Easter morning and the miracle of the empty tomb.

Rev Andrew

Eastry Woodnesborough Benefice



February and March Services at St. Mary's, Eastry

Services in February 2024

Sunday 4th Feb Holy Communion 10.00am

Sunday 11th Feb Come and Worship Team 10.00am [Church Hall](#)

Sunday 18st Feb Holy Communion 10.00am

Sunday 25th Feb Holy Communion 8.00am and 10.00am

Servcies in March 2024*

Sunday 3rd March Holy Communion 10.00am

Sunday 10th March Holy Communion 10.00am (Mothering Sunday Service)

Sunday 17th March Holy Communion 10.00am

Sunday 24th March Holy Communion 10.00am

Sunday 31st March Holy Communion 10.00am (Easterly Sunday)

***Please see Church Announcements page for details on possible venue change.**

**Every Wednesday in Eastry Church Hall
10.00 am Holy Communion . Everyone is welcome.**

Churches Open for Private Prayer*

Our churches are usually 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:**

Rector - Reverend Andrew Brown

01304 273836 rev.andrewewb@gmail.com *(Andrew's rest day is Monday)*

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 11am to 1pm and Fridays 10.00am to 12 noon
Tel: 01304 611323 (answerphone checked 3 times a week) email:
eastrybenefice@gmail.com (checked daily)

Benefice Website

Please visit our website: 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

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

Eastry Church Notices



In mid February some of the back pews in the Church will be removed to assess the recurrence of dry rot. It is possible that further management of this will involve removing all the North side pews (again) and filling in the under floor space. This may mean that the church will be out of action for several weeks and possibly including Easter. Services will take place in the church hall. The Mothering Sunday service on March 10th will most likely be in the church hall. Thankfully the Hall lends itself well to services and can accommodate 60 people in a comfortable and informal atmosphere. We will do our best to keep people informed but rest assured that each Sunday there will be a 10am service in Eastry.

Advance notice of events coming up this year.

•Saturday April 20th Noon-1: **Dragon hunt** in the church followed by **Dragon Burgers in the pub.** With the added attraction of a visit from "Andrewsaurus"!

•**Sunday afternoon concert** late April or May.

•Saturday June 1st 2pm: **Teddy Bear Zip** line event.

•**Choral Concert** in the church on a Sunday in June

•Saturday July 20th 2pm. **Fete.**

Saturday July 27th 6pm: **Jazz on the Green.**


Details on all these will emerge later.


Alastair Carnegie (Churchwarden)



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- Housing related queries
- Welfare benefits & debt advice
- Help with daily living tasks
- Making lifestyle changes
- Children and young person support
- Combating isolation/loneliness
- Living with anxiety/depression
- Living with autism/ADHD
- Accessing community groups & activities
- Navigating the health & social care system

We've also a range of groups and programmes to support physical and mental wellbeing that are open to all patients, so please get in touch and tell us "WHAT MATTERS TO YOU!"





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Eastry WI



As usual Eastry WI doesn't meet in January. However, we met up for a coffee morning at Infinathea on 17th January.

I think we are all looking forward to lighter mornings and evenings as well as some warmth.

Our first meeting of the new year will be on February 7th and will be a games night. The following meeting on March 7th is our Annual meeting.

Craft Group in the Church Hall has been meeting each week on Tuesdays At 9 -12.00 noon and is very well attended as always, including planning for the post box toppers. My thanks go to the members that knit and crochet them.

Sue Hankins

Melting Moments - Chris Scott

I remember these biscuits being served alongside semolina pudding at school. We loved them and they are so easy to make children will enjoy helping.

Ingredients:-

100g Butter or margarine

75g Sugar

1 Egg yolk

1 tsp Vanilla essence or extract

125g Self raising flour

Rolled oats or crushed cornflakes (honey nut will do)

Heat the oven to 370F, 190C or Gas 5. Grease or line 2 baking trays.

Cream together the fat and sugar and then beat in the egg yolk and vanilla. Stir in the flour until you have a stiff dough.

Have the oats or crushed cornflakes in a dish. Divide the dough into 24, then take each piece, mould it into a ball and roll in the oats/cornflakes. You can put a little piece of glace cherry on the top of each one if wished. Arrange on the baking sheet and bake for 15 - 20 minutes.

Eastry Short Mat Bowls

Happy New Year to all

Short mat bowls is played every Friday in the Village Hall over the winter. Play commences at 7pm and goes on till 9pm with a short break half way through. If you have ever fancied having a go pop along on a Friday. It's gentle exercise and we generally have a bit of fun- it's not too serious and suits all abilities. Bowls can be provided, we just ask you to wear flat shoes. The first 3 sessions are free to any new player.



Contact Phil on 07825 334077 for more information.

Royal Congratulations to two Eastry Couples



Two well known Eastry couples have been delighted to recently receive congratulatory cards from the King and Queen.

John and Cynthia Waring (top left) who live in Woodnesborough Lane, Eastry celebrated their Sapphire Wedding Anniversary (65 years) and Rosemary and Bob Barwick of Mill Lane, Eastry celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary (60 years).

EVN send our warmest congratulations to them.



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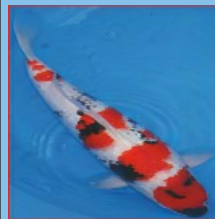
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THE FUTURE OF EASTRY THEATRE COMPANY [ETC]

As ETC'S independent representative on Eastry Village Hall's Council, I have been asked to ascertain the intentions for the future of the Company.

It seems that since the Lock Down, ETC has had problems in encouraging past members and new supporters to help the Company survive.

During the past several years, it has been most grateful to Hannah Mitten for her great efforts in keeping the Company active by writing, producing and directing three pantomimes. Unfortunately, Hannah no longer has the time nor the inclination to carry on.

The Village Hall Council wishes to know of the future intentions of ETC and has encouraged me to call a meeting, of all those people who may be interested, to make a decision on the immediate future of EASTRY THEATRE COMPANY.

For this purpose, I have arranged a meeting to be held in Eastry Village Hall on:-

MONDAY 26TH FEBRUARY AT 7.30 PM.

The only discussion will be on THE FUTURE OF EASTRY THEATRE COMPANY, and if the decision is to carry on, then an ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING could follow adhering to THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF EASTRY THEATRE COMPANY which was established on its inauguration meeting in December 1995 which states such a meeting should be held annually along with the named officers forming the Executive Committee. Unfortunately, those terms of reference have not been fully adhered to in recent years.



Bubbles Nursery

As you might have seen from recent media coverage Bubbles Nursery in Eastry (as part of a nationwide chain) closed at the end of December 2023. Included here is an article by Monica Laslett (chairperson EYPC) regarding this closure.

It is with great sadness that I am writing this to inform all of the people in Eastry that Bubbles Nursery and Out of School Club (OSC) closed it's doors suddenly for the last time on Friday 29th December. This came completely out of the blue, not expected at all. We were a busy nursery. Now 10 people are out of work and the village has lost a vital childcare facility.

Bubbles Nursery and OSC was first opened in September 1995 by Trudi Gibb in a portacabin on the site owned by Eastry Young Peoples Club. I myself was fortunate enough to be employed by Trudi in April 1996 and have continued to remain there, seeing many changes over the years.

In 2004 my husband Dick Laslett MBE as chairperson of EYPC committee along with Trudi Gibb, Sheila Smith, Teddy Birnberg, Margaret Bullock, Colin Humphreys, John Kemp and Bill and Brenda Roberts raised the funds to have PA Hollingworth erect the building which is on site now. One half used for the young people of Eastry two nights a week. The other half leased out for a children's nursery and OSC.

In 2006 Bernadette and John Gibbs took on the lease for 8 busy years. Famous for the amazing food they cooked for the children.

In 2014 Alpha Nurseries a large company from Ipswich took on the lease and remained there until close.

EYPC are the owners of the building and would very much like it to remain open as a nursery and OSC. As a committee we are doing all we can to get it up and running again. Due to circumstances this will

Poets' Corner

Me Verses the Poem

By Lin West

I am sitting in bed, with my cuppa in hand; it is five am in the morning
My poem is ready to jump into life; my face has not stopped yawning!

I go down stairs to make my toast; the poem has not gone away
It takes over my mind, like a remote control, it always has so much to
say!

Junior Doctors, wages and strikes, Mr Bates and the Post Office scandal
This time in the morning it is far too much for my aging brain to handle!
But I know you won't wait, so I have to give in, leave my toast and grab
my pen

It is over to you; say what you like, for you know you've won again.

My Chocolate Treat

By Shirley Hopkins

I don't know how it started or how it came about,
My treat from dad each morning, would always be left out.

I'd creep downstairs as I'd hear him leave,
On a saucer, a chocolate flake would you believe.
I'd unwrap it carefully, not to waste a single crumb,
And devour it eagerly without ever telling mum.
I'd wash up the evidence and never speak a word,
I didn't want dad in trouble, should mum have overheard.

I still don't know if mum, ever really knew,
I suspect she did, just pretended she didn't have a clue.

EPC-Councillor Profile: Joe McDonnell



Cllr Joe McDonnell has lived in Eastry for “six glorious years”. Joe retired from HM Prison Belmarsh, London where he worked as a Warder for 10 years, *“A tough job and not for the faint hearted”*, Joe adds. Prior to Belmarsh, Joe worked for 18 years as a manager of a CCTV control room for the London Borough of Merton. He tells Eastry Village News that he felt immediately at home in Eastry, and finds its people friendly and welcoming. Always striving to give back to his local community Joe became an Eastry Parish Councillor in 2020.

You can meet Joe on his regular walks through the Parish Church graveyard, since he eagerly volunteered himself to keep a keen eye on its upkeep. Joe is a big advocate of giving back to his local community, he wants to make Eastry an even better place to live and enjoy. Joe has played an influential part in EPC’s Traffic Speeding Campaign. Not content with limp looking *‘It’s the limit, not a Target’* red banners, Joe quickly constructed several sturdy wooden frames so that the banners can be seen clearly by drivers. Another issue dear to Joe’s heart is excessive housebuilding in rural areas including Eastry, he thinks new homes should be located near railway stations instead to encourage less reliance on the car.

Profiles by Marion Goulay

Eastry’s Tamara Barwick receives Kent Mental Wellbeing Award

Tamara (22) an Eastry resident and final year student at Christchurch University, Canterbury (pictured) was delighted to receive a Kent Well-being Award for her devotion to helping her local Eastry community. Tamara regularly spends 30+ hours per month helping the Eastry’s Rainbows, Brownies and Scout groups as well as helping at the Village Hall coffee mornings. Tamara told EVN why she loves volunteering, “I love seeing the little Rainbows burst through the door each week – they all make me smile!” Well done Tamara!



Tamara Barwick is presented with her Award by Cllr Mark Jones, EPC Chair at the Village Hall Coffee Morning where Tamara volunteers regularly, January 2024.

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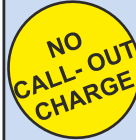
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Bohemian Waxwings - a hippy story?

Late 2023 and hopefully these early months of 2024 qualify as a 'waxwing winter'.

Waxwings are Starling sized birds with elegant plumage including a pink crest and breast, a black throat and mask, a black tail tipped with bright yellow and yellow on the wings. Their name stems from the fact that they bear red waxy secretions on some of their flight feathers. The importance of these is not clear but they probably help attract a mate. The crest is also used in courtship, being raised almost to a vertical position whilst lowering the tail, ruffling the belly feathers and adopting a horizontal posture. More likely to be seen in birds here in the winter is the threat pose to a rival, where the bird becomes stiffly upright with the crest firmly flattened to the head. More common behaviour to watch for is their acrobatics in feeding on berries, often on flimsy stems unable to withstand the bird's weight.

They occur in flocks on trees bearing berries, Rowans are their favourites, uttering ringing type calls. As a result, many people, including folk who do not usually go out of their way to look at birds, have flocked to Stonelees nature reserve on the Sandwich side of Pegwell Bay and to isolated berry trees in streets in Broadstairs to watch and photograph them.

Waxwings' normal habitats are woodlands in Fennoscandia, the Scandinavian, Finnish and Kola Peninsulas and in Karelia, the Westernmost area of Russia. Here they feed on flowers, fruit and insects, nesting and breeding in the forest trees and in parks and gardens. They are not normally particularly migratory, simply moving to lower lying more sheltered areas within their normal range in winter. They subsist through those winter months overwhelmingly on berries, which are rich in sugars in the soft, fruit, part and in protein, starches and oils in the hard seed, the embryo plant. Each bird consumes 800-1000 berries a day, roughly twice its body weight in berries.

In some years the berry crop fails due to poor weather conditions in the summer and autumn. This causes the waxwings to **irrupt**; to move in huge numbers out of their normal range first into Northern Europe then, if food there is scarce too, further and further South, sometimes reaching Britain across the North Sea so most commonly occurring along the East coast. Here they are often found in large numbers on berry bearing trees, often stripping the tree and then moving on to the next. This often leads to their being seen in unusual places in suburban streets and, especially, in supermarket car parks, which are often furnished with decorative berry trees.



Text by Terry Wood

Image by Steve Reynaert

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The government is providing a range of extra support which will be paid to eligible individuals automatically, including the Energy Price Guarantee which limits the amount you can be charged per unit of electricity and gas, and the £300 Pensioner Cost of Living payment, which will be paid with Winter Fuel Payments to all pensioner households across the UK.

Additional schemes provide support with childcare, housing and work. Help managing finance can be found at: www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en

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Gardening on the other side of the fence – no.17

Cold, early January and the gardening season is still only on the horizon. However as part of my resolution to increase the amount of bulbs in the garden I have two options in the pipeline. As mentioned before I am endeavouring to only plant organic bulbs. I have found another UK based supplier (www.organicgardener.co.uk, a Dutch grower who has relocated to Devon) and will be planting a batch of tulip bulbs, just received, later today. There are plenty of bulb buying bargains to be had in the latter part of the year and while you have less choice, the savings are substantial. Tulips are usually recommended to be planted later than other bulbs in order to reduce the risk of the tulip fire virus and plenty of growers report that they flower perfectly well from January plantings.

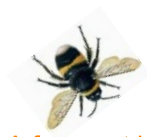
Some other bulbs establish best from being planted “in the green”, which is when they are in active growth. Snowdrops are most often recommended for this method but suppliers offer plenty of other choices. I have just ordered 100 of our native, wild daffodil (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus*) (from www.naturescape.co.uk). I expect these to be delivered in February. I had previously ordered these from another supplier in autumn 2021, but they turned out to have sent the wrong variety. I ignored this in 2022 but sent I photographic evidence in 2023 and received a full refund. As they were individually planted in my orchard meadow, I have no urge to dig them up again. Fortunately, they are still a quite discreet flowered daff, not one of the big boisterous yellow varieties.

One tool purchase has transformed bulb planting and will help save my ageing wrists from the rigors of this task : an awl attachment for an electric drill. I like to avoid the use of power tools as much as possible but this really has been a game-changer for large-scale planting.

The tulips are going into a small gap between a raised veg bed that sits in front of my greenhouse. Last year this was planted with sunflowers with the bonus of having somewhere easy to tie them to for support and I will repeat that again. After the bulbs go in, I will be mulching with shredded apple tree prunings, both for weed suppression and soil enhancement. I urge you to look up the work of a pioneer regenerative agriculture farmer, Iain Tolhurst. Experimentation with the use of wood chips and the results so far achieved have turned them from a waste product into a revenue earner for many tree surgeons. The last addition has been a dwarf *Narcissus*, ‘W.P. Milner’ but these were dry bulbs and may not flower this year as *Narcissus* start rooting in September and flowering can be determined by the amount of rainfall in that period.

I was away for both the Village fete and the last Safari in 2023, but I will be growing pollinator-friendly plants for both this year. I look forward to saying hello to some of you then.

Jeff the Bee Friendly Gardener.



Getting Bees through the Winter



A frequent beekeeping question is 'Do bees hibernate?' No; they cluster. What is the difference?

Hibernation is 'passing the winter in a dormant or inactive state'. By clustering bees remain active; on certain winter days they even fly from the hive. But, as the ambient temperature in the hive falls below 17 ° C they group together. As the temperature falls further the grouping becomes tighter; layers of bees on the outside forming a protective shell, whilst, most bees, in the centre of the group, continue to move, but less actively. This is the cluster, a dynamic group of bees, which will change size depending on the surrounding air temperature.

Bees on the outside of the group can disengage their wings and relax their wing muscles. The equivalent of shivering this releases extra heat energy. Having completed their stint on the periphery a bee will move inwards, replaced by another warmer bee. Occasionally the temperature of a bee falls too low, at which point they will die and fall to the bottom of the hive, to be removed later.

Winter is a fraught time for both bees and beekeeper; both hope they have prepared well for the trials that might befall them; preparation which started the Summer before.

Winter bees are different from summer bees; they have a longer life expectancy – 6 months instead of 6 weeks. Winter bees must live through to the Spring to rear the next generation. A key job of any beekeeper is to ensure that sufficient, healthy, winter bees were produced back in August; without several thousand the cluster will not be large enough to keep warm and the colony will die.

The beekeeper must also ensure the queen is fit to get through the winter and can start to lay up eggs come February. As a queen cannot easily be replaced until mid-Spring, the loss of the queen is a death sentence for the colony.

Sufficient food stores, some 20kg, must also be available in the hive. This will be eaten and used to generate heat. Remarkably, when the queen starts to lay the brood nest – the area where the larvae are developing – it is kept at a constant 34 ° C. even when ambient temperature may be hovering around zero. A key task of the beekeeper is to check that there are sufficient stores going into the winter, and where they are light, to feed to make up the shortfall.

In addition, the hive must be weatherproof and protected from predators, such as mice and green woodpeckers. Apart from checking that a hive is not blown over or entrances become blocked with snow; other than keeping their fingers crossed, there is little more a beekeeper can do.

Jackie Aucott

‘SLOW DOWN for Eastry’ campaign



Eastry Parish Council has established its own ‘SLOW DOWN for Eastry’ traffic speed campaign. So far we have put up three ***It’s a limit, not a target*** banners on roads entering the village - Sandwich Road, Lower Street and Heronden Road – to remind drivers to they are entering our village. The banners were supplied by Kent County Council (KCC) and were placed around the village by EPC Councillors Kirsty Bell, Marion Gourlay and Martyn Hay with sturdy frames built by Cllr Joe McConnell. EPC is working with KCC towards improving the visibility of the village entrance gates on Lower Street and Sandwich Road.

This is the traffic speed awareness campaign banner promoted by Eastry Parish Council. A larger version appeared on Page 5 to high ight the importance of this issue to the village.



EPC Councillors Kirsty Bell and Martyn Hay erect *It’s a limit, not a target* slower speed banner on Heronden Road, Eastry

Are you willing to help out with other slow speed initiatives? If so, please get in touch clerk@eastry-pc.gov.uk

Report a pothole

Kent Council Council’s (KCC) free online reporting is for everyone living in Kent. If you see road damage, a pothole, blocked drains or damaged road signs you can report them online. It’s a numbers game, the more people that report the same problem the quicker it rises up KCC’s TO DO list. The online form is very simple and very quick to fill out.

www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem

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