

Good News Parish Magazine High Downs Parish

*Serving the villages of
Eastling, Otterden,
Stalisfield and Throwley*
www.goodnews.rf.gd



APRIL 2023

- 5th Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 7th Easter Family Trail
Teynham Church 1 - 3pm
- 9th **Easter Day** - List of Services around
our parishes inside this magazine
- 11th Hall & Parish Council Annual Meetings
Eastling Village Hall 7.30pm
- 12th Arts Society lecture, Egerton
Millennium Hall, Egerton 2.30pm
- 12th Stalisfield Youth
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 13th Singing Kettle Song Group
Newnham Village Hall 2 - 3pm
- 13th History Society
Charing Parish Hall 7.30pm
- 14th Quiz Night
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 20th Copy Deadline for May Good News
goodnewsmagazine@me.com
- 26th Stalisfield Youth
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 27th Arts Society lecture, Faversham
Alexander Centre 11am
- 28th Eat, Pray, Walk
Doddington Church 1.30pm
- 29th Stalisfield Bluebell Walk
Stalisfield Village Hall 10am - 2pm

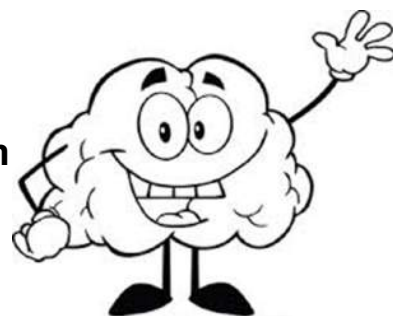
MAY

- 1st Spring Fair 11am - 4pm
Belmont House & Garden
- 7th Coronation Thanksgiving Service
Throwley Church 5pm
- 8th Eastling Coronation Celebration
Eastling Village Hall 12.30 - 3pm
- 8th Stalisfield Coronation Fare to Share
Stalisfield Village Hall 1 - 4pm

QUESTION Which is the best quiz in Kent?
If you've answered STALISFIELD, you've got one right!

STALISFIELD QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 14th April 7:30pm
in the Village Hall.



- Maximum table size - 8 people
- £5 per person plus raffle tickets!
- (Cash or card)
- Be there for a fun-packed, evening's entertainment!
- Bring your own food and drink.
- Book your table with katejamiesoncornhill@gmail.com



Holy Week in our Churches

Palm Sunday 2nd April

10.30am Holy Communion at Eastling

7.30pm Evening Prayer with Reflection,

Monday 3rd at Newnham, Tuesday 4th at Eastling

Wednesday 5th at Doddington, Saturday 8th at Newnham

Maundy Thursday 6th The Last Supper at Norton.

Good Friday 7th April

10.30am Stations of the Cross, Doddington

2pm Last Hour of the Cross, Eastling

Easter Day 9th April

6am Sunrise Service with breakfast,
Wychling

9am Holy Communion, Eastling

10.30am Morning Prayer, Throwley

10.30am Easter Communion, Stalisfield

10.30am All Together Now, Lynsted

(More service details inside)



Stalisfield Bluebell Walk

Saturday 29 April 2023

Starting from Stalisfield Village Hall

Between 10.00am - 2.00pm

2 mile or 5 mile loop

£5/£2.50 per Adult/Child,

£12.50 / Family (Up to 3 children U16)

All proceeds to St Mary's Church, Stalisfield.

Contact Jenny King on 01795 890366
if any queries





EASTER MESSAGE

One of the things I like most about my job is that people talk to me – I get the opportunity to meet with so many new people who tell me about themselves, and they often tell me about the most important things that are going on for them, and about the big questions of their lives.

I often have conversations with young parents bringing their children for Baptism who want to do the ‘right thing’ for them by asking God to bless the children and pray for God’s help in bringing them up. They are all on a journey – not knowing quite why this is so important, but even though they might not have all the answers sewn up, they want to know more.

I often meet with people who have lost the most loved person in their lives. In their grief, they seek something that will bring them comfort amidst the deep questions around life and death that are brought to the surface around such sorrow.

And I expect that lots of people have those feelings and questions and wonderings about life. Church is a place and a community that is full of

people questioning what life is all about. I once heard it said that ‘Church is a hospital for sinners, not a museum for saints’.

Church is for people who know perfectly well that they haven’t got it sorted. We haven’t got it all sewn up either, but there is a sense that we’re all journeying together, getting things wrong, offering it all to God and hearing him say ‘You are forgiven. I love you.’

And as Easter comes close, and many people think of coming to a church service, perhaps for the first time in a while, I want to say very clearly that we are all invited to come just as we are - with all our fears failures and doubts - and to offer them to God, who loved us enough to send Jesus into our messy world. So come along to something - whether it’s the celebration of Easter Sunday itself, the solemnity of Maundy Thursday or the Stations of the Cross experience in Doddington - and if you come, remember that you don’t have to have all the answers to be welcome. Just come as you are.

And if this year you find yourself wondering about God, and Jesus, and faith, and what the church is for, we will be running an Alpha course from Monday 24th April at the

Vicarage in Doddington. Alpha is a Christian Basics Course that has been done by millions of people around the world. It’s totally free and there is no pressure - it’s just a chance to meet other local people, share a meal together, to explore the big questions of life and to find out more about what Christians believe. To find out more, pick up a leaflet from church, go to www.alpha.org or have a word with me (01795 886351). And if you take the plunge and come to Church, or to Alpha, know that you’ll really be welcome, just as you are.

Many blessings
Rev Caroline



The Alpha Course

Everyone has questions

explore life, faith, meaning

Monday evenings
7.00pm to eat
finishes at 9.30pm
Starts 24th April

The Vicarage
The Street
Doddington
ME9 0BH

Prayer Pointers

Mondays - Pray for the new Alpha course and all who are seeking to know more about our Christian faith.

Tuesdays - As we enjoy the flowers and birdsong of Spring, pray for a better response by governments and businesses to the realities of climate change.

Wednesdays - Pray for all suffering persecution or unlawful imprisonment.

Thursdays - For evangelical Christians and their Pastors in Ukraine.

Fridays - For all grieving loved ones.

Saturdays - For Chaplains in schools & universities, hospitals, prisons, police forces and armed services.

Sundays - Renew in us the wonder of Easter.



Easter Lilies in Eastling Church



Contributions to the display of Easter Lilies in memory of loved ones will be gratefully received by Bay. Your contribution and the names of your loved ones can be placed in the secure postbox outside The Manor or contact Bay Lees on 07922 484648.

Flower Rota for April:

9th - all hands please
16th Di
23rd & 30th Bay & Dorothy
7th May Gaby & Pippa

Stalisfield Celebrates the Coronation

Fare to Share Street Party

Stalisfield Village Hall

Monday 8th May 1-4pm

Bring a plate of food to share with
your neighbours.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Throwley Coronation Thanksgiving Service and Drinks on 7th May

Throwley Church will celebrate the Coronation of
King Charles III on 6th May 2023, by holding a
special service on Sunday 7th May, at 5 pm.

Stuart Neame and members of the Boughton choir
will join the Throwley choir again to perform
some celebratory music.

At 6 pm after the Service we will be providing
drinks and canapés at the back of the Church and,
if the weather allows, in and around the Churchyard.
Everyone is very welcome to attend either or both
events. Further details to come.



Eastling Parish Council

would like to invite all
Eastling residents to a
Celebration of the King's
Coronation on:

**Monday 8th May from
12.30 to 3.00pm at**

Eastling Village Hall

Ploughman's lunch, beer, bubbly and soft
drinks will be provided*

(*please feel free to bring own food and drink if
preferred)

Fun activities for adults and children

Cake raffle (proceeds to Faversham Food Bank)

Free to Eastling residents

(friends and family very welcome for a small
donation of £5 per adult and £1 per child)

Please book your place for catering purposes by
emailing: jacksonandadams@btopenworld.com
(Please also email with any offers to make a
cake for the raffle!)



THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

*The Arts Society brings people together
through a shared curiosity for the arts*

We meet at Egerton Millennium Hall on the second
Wednesday of each month at 2.30 p.m. (doors open from
2.00). Our next lecture will be:

**Wednesday 12th April at 2.30 p.m. SILENT WITNESS: a
Journey through the Art of Holy
Week.** This mini 'visual pilgrimage'
takes a reflective look at a
selection of Eastern Orthodox
icons and Italian art works from the
6th to the 14th centuries, in relation
to the most important days of Holy
Week and the theme of Witness



*Our lecturer, Helen McIldowie-Jones
combines many years' experience as an
educator and professional artist to explain Late Medieval Italian Art
and Eastern Orthodox iconography from a different perspective*

Visitors are always very welcome at £6, refunded if you join. 6
months membership costs £24. For further information please
contact Christine Willis, our Membership Secretary via
cmwillis75@gmail.com or 01233 756377. See also our website
www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk Image provided by lecturer



The Arts Society Faversham

We run regular monthly lectures on the
fourth Thursday at the Alexander Centre,
Faversham. Subjects cover all aspects of
the Arts in its widest sense and are given

by experts in their chosen field and include university
lecturers, broadcasters and tour guides. Come along to a
lecture as a guest (£5 fee) or join for a year's lectures.

**Our next lecture is on the 27th April 2023 at 11.00am
on "Rise of the British Musical from Noel Coward to
Lionel Bart" by John Snelson. Coffee and biscuits
will be served from 10.20am**

The British musical grew in its own unique way, with
style, heart, guts and masses of fun. We are still
entertained by revivals of Me and My Girl, The Boy
Friend and Oliver! But what of the many more hit
shows, such as Noel Coward's Bitter Sweet, Ivor
Novello's King's Rhapsody and the biting
satirical Espresso Bongo, that are no longer staged?
This lecture rediscovers a distinctive West End story to
give a new perspective on the shows and the people
who made them. It's an aspect of culture and personality
unique to Britain – and fascinating in variety and success.
Biography

*John Snelson has been fascinated by musicals all his
life and is now a leading expert in British musical
theatre (the subject of his PhD). He is especially known
for exploring musicals – British and American – in the
light of not just the music and the stage, but society and
culture to reveal what makes them so appealing,
enduring and important. For 20 years he worked for the
Royal Opera House and is completing a book on British
musical theatre.*

For further information contact us at
info@theartsocietyfaversham.org.uk

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To book, email Annie:

jacksonandadams@btopenworld.com 07754 114760

See our availability here: [https://
www.eastlingvillagehall.co.uk/calendar](https://www.eastlingvillagehall.co.uk/calendar)



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Join me at:

Stalisfield Village Hall, ME13 0HY - Thursdays 18.30 - 19.30

Lenham Community Centre - Tuesdays 6.45 - 7.45pm
and Saturdays 9-10am

NO DANCE EXPERIENCE REQUIRED! 16 & OVER

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ALLAN PAYNE

It is with great sadness that the family of Allan Payne announces his passing on February 2nd 2023 at the age of 93.

Allan passed away peacefully at his home surrounded by his family. His children Mark, Julian, Celia and Adam, and their children, will sorely miss him.

Allan served in the Royal Engineers before becoming a lawyer in a Sittingbourne law firm. The family moved to Eastling in the late sixties and Allan, and his wife Jean who passed away in 2012, lived the rest of their lives in the village. Allan served for over 20 years as clerk to the Eastling Parish Council and was one of the first trustees, who together with Bidy Freed and other residents, formed a fund raising committee that organized the finances to build the Eastling village hall.

Allan was cremated and his ashes will be buried with Jean in accordance with his last wishes.

Eastling Neighbourhood Watch



Village Warden 07794 010 394
or 01795 890848

Police 101 **Emergency** 999

Usual reminder about reporting any suspicious vehicles in our local area as there has been a spate of crime within the Swale area involving theft etc from properties.

Reports have been coming in of purse thefts within the Sittingbourne/Faversham areas. So please be mindful when out shopping to keep your purse and cards in a very, preferably zipped, safe place.

Scams are still plentiful so please be wary and do not give your personal details to any strange callers on phones or emails. If in doubt please call the police or give me a call and remember not to make the call until at least 15 minutes after you put the phone down.

I had a strange text on my phone this week. It stated off 'Hi Mum', and I am not a mum, and carried on to say that this person pretending to be a family member had lost their phone and requested that I contact the phone number given. No doubt the follow on would have been requesting monies be sent to a new bank account. I deleted the message but please advise any elderly or vulnerable people about this scam.

Have a good month
Take Care, Alan

Stalisfield Parish Council

Parish Council elections are being held for **Stalisfield** on May 4th this year along with the election of our East Downs ward councillor for Swale Borough Council. If you are interested in becoming a Stalisfield parish councillor nomination papers are available from Apple Tree Cottage, Stalisfield Green, ME13 0HY. These need to be submitted by April 4th. Please feel free to contact Cat Horn on 01795 890298 if you would like to know more about what's involved in being a parish councillor.

These will be the first elections where you will be required to bring a photo ID with you in order to vote in person. Acceptable IDs can be found at www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id/accepted-forms-photo-id. If you don't have an accepted form of ID you can apply for a voter Authority Certificate either online via the Electoral Commission website, or you can contact Kent County Council to apply for a photo ID in person or by post by April 25th. It is very important to safeguard your democratic right to vote that you bring your accepted photo ID with you to the polling station. **You do NOT need ID if you apply for and vote using a postal vote.** Applications for a postal vote need to be made to Swale Borough Council by 18th April. This is a big change to our voting system and people without the correct ID will find themselves unable to vote on the day. If you need any help navigating the new requirements, please contact Cat on 01795 890298.

Local Council Elections 4 May 2023

Would you like to get involved more in your local community, do something to help the village, meet more of your neighbours? Have you considered applying to become a Parish Councillor? There are elections coming up in May so this is your chance as every Parish and Town Council seat is up for election on 4 May, which is the same day as the Borough Council elections. Nomination papers (with a completed consent form) can be delivered to the Returning Officer (c/o Electoral Services team) between the hours of 10am to 4pm from Thurs 16 March until 4pm on Tues 4 April. Guidance from the Electoral Commission is available to view on their website and you are strongly encouraged to read this before completing the nomination forms www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-council

elections-england

Please arrange a time with the Elections team for an informal check of your nomination paper before submitting the final forms. For an informal check, you can email your nomination papers to elections@swale.gov.uk or call 01795 417558 to arrange an appointment. If you do not arrange an informal check and don't submit your nomination papers early, there may not be time to correct any errors before close of nominations, given the number of nomination papers that will be received in a short period of time (there are also Borough elections on the same day). The final nomination papers must be delivered **BY HAND** to Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, ME10 3HT before the deadline of **4pm on 4 April 2023**

TRUSTEES OF EASTLING VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 11th April 2023 at
7.30pm

The Annual General Meeting of the Trustees of Eastling Village Hall will be held on Tuesday 11th April 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The Village Hall meeting will be followed at 8pm by the Annual Parish meeting of Eastling Parish Council. All Eastling residents are invited to attend both meetings.

April update from KCC member Rich Lehman can be found on <https://www.eastlingvillage.co.uk>



All Together Now

All Together Now is a time for the whole community to gather once a month to celebrate all that is good and to worship together with new and old friends. The time together involves singing, craft, something from the bible to help in life, a bit of silliness and quite a lot of cake! And plenty of coffee for the adults. It is open to all ages and celebrates God with the elderly, the not so elderly, children and young people just as they are.

Come along to Lynsted Church on the second Sunday each month at 10.15 for coffee to start at 10.30. All Together Now finishes by 11.45am.

If you need any more information, please contact caroline.turvey@kc-hd.org.uk
Hope to see you there.



April 2023

Wednesdays 7.00 - 8.30pm
11 - 18 yr old welcome
12th and 26th April
Stalisfield Village Hall

contact:
clnorwood@doctors.org.uk
for more details

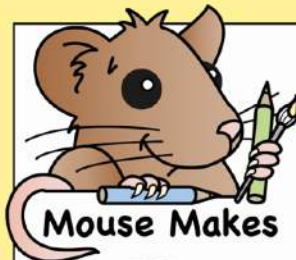


Stalisfield Youth Group continues on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at Stalisfield Village Hall 7-8.30pm. 11-18y old welcome, free entry. Tuck shop, music, cake, gaming, table tennis, craft, games and other activities. All welcome! See our Facebook Page or contact Catherine on clnorwood@doctors.org.uk for any more information.

Eat Pray Walk is on the Fourth Friday of each month.


Starting at Doddington Church Car Park at 1.30pm. We're inviting those who need space to breathe in the busyness of this world, to a refreshing amble with friends old and new and a space to encounter something of God through the stillness of prayer. Come and discover God anew. For more information, please contact caroline.turvey@kc-hd.org.uk






Mouse Makes


HE IS RISEN!
Read the story of
The Resurrection in
Matthew 28:1-20



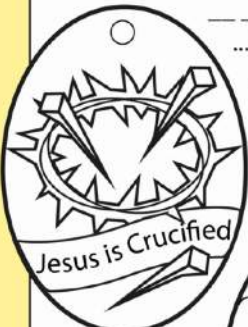
Into Jerusalem



Jesus is Betrayed

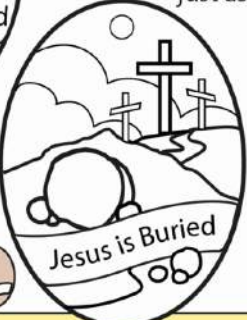


The Last Supper




Jesus is Crucified

An _____ of the Lord came down from _____ and going to the _____ rolled back the _____ ... the _____ said, "Do not be _____, for I know you are looking for Jesus who was _____, He is not here; he has _____, just as he said."



Jesus is Buried



Jesus is Risen!

Glue this page onto card. Cut out the ovals then colour in. Punch a hole at the top and hang up for Easter

Apr23 © Deborah Noble • parishpump.co.uk

Join us for an Easter Family Trail on
Good Friday, 7th April,
between 1pm and 3pm
at Teynham Church.



Discover the Easter story through readings and activities, hot cross buns and Easter eggs.







Sunday Services

2nd April Palm Sunday

Psalm 118. 1 - 2, 19 - 29, Matthew 21. 1 - 11

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Norton 10.30am Morning Worship

See next page for Holy Week Services

9th April Easter Day

Acts 10. 34 - 43, Matthew 28. 1 - 10

Wychling 6am Sunrise Service with
breakfast

Eastling 9am Holy Communion BCP

Throwley 10.30am Morning Prayer

Lynsted 10.30am All Together Now

Stalisfield 10.30am Easter Communion

16th April Easter 2

Acts 2. 14a, 22 - 32, John 20. 19 - 31

Newnham 9am Holy Communion BCP

Stalisfield 10.30am Mothering Sunday

Eastling 10.30am Morning Worship

23rd April Easter 3

Acts 2. 14a, 36 - 41, Luke 24. 13 - 35

Throwley 10.30am Holy Communion

Teynham 4.00pm Evening Prayer

30th April Easter 4

Acts 2. 42 - 47, John 10. 1 - 10

Newnham 10.30am Holy Communion

7th May Easter 5

Acts 7. 55 - 60, John 14. 1 - 14

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Throwley 5.00pm Coronation

Thanksgiving Service

Online Daily Worship Continues

As well as the services in our churches, the daily
9am Morning Prayer at Lynsted and
Breakthrough on Sundays at 6pm, will continue
and be live online on <https://kc-hd.org.uk> .

More information is updated weekly on
St Mary's Eastling 'A Church Near You':

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/11982/>

High Downs Parish

Rector Reverend Canon Dr. Steve Lillicrap
01795 522510 steve.lillicrap@kc-hd.org.uk

Associate Priest Reverend James (Jim) Pye
01795 890726 jim.pye@kc-hd.org.uk

Curate Reverend Caroline Turvey
01795 886351 caroline.turvey@kc-hd.org.uk

Reader Caroline Ramshaw (07799 538809)

Anna Chaplain Caroline Ramshaw
AnnaChaplaincy@outlook.com

Reader Pim Baxter (07710 116269)

Church Contacts

Eastling Andrew Baxter, Warden (01795 890598)

Administrator E mail: eastlingchurch@gmail.com

Stalisfield with Otterden
Jenny King, Warden (01795 890366)

Administrator Shirley Pritchard
Email: Stmarystalisfield@gmail.com

Throwley Vacant

High Downs Parish Safeguarding Officer

Mark Harlow (07979 864000)

Parish Office Email: eastlingchurch@gmail.com

facebook.com/highdownsbenefice

CONTACT THE GOOD NEWS EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like to submit articles, or to advertise in
the May 2023 magazine, send your submission by
20th April to: goodnewsmagazine@me.com.

Past and current issues of the Good News may be
viewed on www.goodnews.rf.gd

Anna Chaplaincy

Please contact our Anna Chaplain, Caroline Ramshaw, if you know
of someone who is isolated, alone, or unable to attend church.

An Anna Chaplain can offer a listening ear and company.

Communion can be brought to you in your own home.



Contact your local Anna Chaplain on:

annachaplaincy@outlook.com

07799538809

An Easter thought

The Resurrection is the central theme in every Christian
sermon reported in the book of Acts. The Resurrection,
and its consequences were the 'gospel' or good news
which the Christians brought. – C S Lewis



Weekday Services during Holy Week

Everyday 9am Morning Prayer
Lynsted Church, on Facebook and
www.kingsdowncreekside.co.uk

Monday 3rd April

7.30pm Evening Prayer with Reflection, Newnham Church

Tuesday 4th April

7.30pm Evening Prayer with Reflection, Eastling Church

Wednesday 5th April

7.30pm Evening Prayer with Reflection, Doddington Church

Maundy Thursday 6th April

7pm The Last Supper - Shepherd's pie supper with Communion in Norton Village Hall, followed by prayers in the Orchard and finishing together in Norton Church. Contact Caroline Turvey to book your supper or book at www.kc-hd.org.uk

Good Friday 7th April

10.30am Stations of the Cross, Doddington Church
1-3pm Easter Family Trail Teynham Church
2pm Last Hour of the Cross, Eastling Church

Saturday 8th April

7.30pm Evening Prayer with Reflection, Newnham Church

Easter faith in atheist Russia

Three years after the Russian Revolution of 1917, a great anti-God rally was arranged in Kiev. The powerful orator Bukharin was sent from Moscow, and for an hour he demolished the Christian faith with argument, abuse and ridicule. At the end there was silence.

Then a man rose and asked to speak. He was a priest of the Russian Orthodox Church. He went and stood next to Bukharin. Facing the people, he raised his arms and spoke just three triumphant words: 'Christ is risen!'

At once the entire assembly rose to their feet and gave the joyful response, 'He is risen indeed!' It was a devastating moment for an atheist politician, who had no answer to give to this ancient Easter liturgy. He had not realised he was simply too late: how can you convince people that God does not exist when they have already encountered Him?



What's On at Belmont

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday 9th April, 11am-3pm

Join us at Belmont for some Easter fun. Explore the gardens and search for the wooden eggs to win a chocolate treat, then head back to the Orangery to get crafty with some Easter themed activities. £6.00 per child & £3.50 per adult. Tickets must be booked in advance.

Paintalong Event, Parent & Child Session

Wednesday 12th April, 11am - 1pm

It's step by step follow the artist teacher to a finished wall ready painting on canvas. You don't need to bring anything apart from yourself, everything is supplied. The theme for this workshop is Cats and Starry Night. Light refreshments included. Suitable for children aged 10+. £60.00 for 1 adult 1 child and £80 for 1 adult 2 children.

Spring Fair

Monday 1st May, 11am - 4pm

This event is the perfect way to spend a spring day, browsing the variety of plants on sale and gathering great ideas for your garden for the coming season. With a superb collection of local crafters and artisans, you can expect to find some unique, quality hand-made gifts for friends, family and maybe yourself. £7.00 per person, to include garden entry. Children under 16 are free of charge!



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Don't forget you can enjoy our pub classics menu on a Tuesday and our set lunch menu Tuesday to Friday at just £17.50 per person for 2 courses.

Book your table to celebrate the Easter festivities. Begin with Richard's traditional blackboard of fish Friday specials or traditional roast on Easter Sunday.

See our Facebook page and our SHINY NEW website for more details.

Keep up to date by following us on Facebook or Instagram
Stalisfield Road, Faversham, Kent, ME13 0HY
Tel: 01795 890256 Email: info@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk



The Stalisfield Pantomime....

made a triumphant return to the stage in March after a 2 year lockdown absence and a delay due to illness in December. Pirates of all ages swash-buckled their way through a glorious romp very loosely based on Treasure Island. We are so lucky to have an amazing script specially written for us each year which enables everyone to play to their strengths. This year we welcomed lots of new talent with performers coming from Stalisfield, Charing, Throwley and Eastling and several theatrical debuts were made.

Thanks and appreciation must go to all the gifted actors both young and old(er) who put in many hours of rehearsal; to the parents who ferried their brilliant children back and forth and put together some wonderful costumes and stage make-up for them; to the stage managers who made the scene changes look effortless and provided a hilarious plot twist; to the extraordinarily talented design team for the stunning scenery and props and to the sound and lighting designers who gave the whole production a thoroughly professional polish. Thanks also to the box office for dealing so gracefully with the last minute postponement in December, the programme and ticket designer (so good they did it twice); the production co-ordinator who kept everyone on the straight and narrow and to the "mixologists" who kept the audience extremely well lubricated!

As the director I am so grateful to the nearly forty people who were involved in making this production happen. I think the audience would agree, we are very lucky to live in such a talented community.

If you would like to take part in the next Villages Pantomime, either onstage or backstage please get in touch with Cat at cat1@totalise.co.uk. All are welcome and no prior experience is necessary.

Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.

Our meeting in March was a presentation by the husband of one of our members. Andrew Bond's family story handed down through generations was 'one of the family was at the Battle of Trafalgar with Nelson'. With the help of research into his family tree and many documents held in the National Archives, he was able to trace John Quilliam through his life from a farm hand on the Isle of Man, into the Navy and his progress through the ranks. The records of HMS Victory at the Battle of Trafalgar showed that Captain John Quilliam was by then a First Lieutenant, serving under Nelson and is depicted in the painting by Benjamin West 'The Death of Nelson'. Andrew has co-written and published a book after many years research and is rightly very proud of his distant relative, a hero from the Isle of Man.

On April 5th we will be joined by local artist Judith Westrup, who creates beautiful lino-cut prints and cards. We will be having a go at some printing ourselves using Judith's hand press, and hopefully not making too much mess!

Our membership has increased during the last 12 months, our group is comprised of ladies from most of the surrounding villages and we are always keen for more members to join us. Come along as a guest (£3) to try us out, you will be made very welcome! We usually meet on the first Wednesday of each month, 7:30 at Stalisfield Village Hall, and for more information please call Helen on 07477 580727, or Ellie on 01795 892016.

'Happy times with old songs, tea & chatter'



Come and join us in singing for fun on Thursday 13th

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The Pudding Pans or the Mystery of the Sands

This talk will explore the detective story that identified the origins of the Roman Samian Ware vessels and how they came to be on the North Kent coast.



Speaker: Bill Phillips

13th April 2023

Parish Hall, Station Road,
Charing.

7.30pm doors open

Talk starts promptly at 8pm



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HISTORY SOCIETY

Stalisfield Village Hall Events 2023

April 14th – Quiz in the Village Hall

May 8th – Coronation Fare to Share

July 1st – TBD Event

August 26th – Stalisfield FETE

October 7th – Harvest Supper

December 8th and 9th – Pantomime

December 10th TBC - Seniors' Christmas Meal

December 16th - Children's Christmas Party

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News from Citizens Advice Swale

It has been a busy past couple of months for everyone here at Citizens Advice Swale and that has extended to our energy advice team which was formed in response to the national cost of living crisis. Fortunately, with the help of funding from a number of local and national bodies, we have been able to direct energy advice and financial assistance to the most vulnerable in our community as well as to those who have needed extra support in these challenging times.

Since our energy project began last November, the team has provided face-to-face energy and general advice in local foodbank venues while ensuring we reach out to the most isolated clients by telephone and email. The aim of the project has not simply been to help clients access emergency energy funding but to provide a holistic advice service to address clients' specific issues. As important as it is to deliver this short-term assistance, we aim to empower clients to tackle the root of their problems so they are better able to manage going forward.

Our clients are affected in different ways, depending on their individual circumstances, we have noticed several recurring themes from those we have helped.

Single parents with young children are some of the most affected by the cost of living crisis and they have struggled to afford the high energy costs alongside the rising prices of food, school supplies and other essentials. Many of these parents have found themselves asking for food and fuel vouchers for the first time in their lives and so it has been pivotal for us to assist these clients to help them find the necessary providers of support within the community.

The cost of living crisis has not discriminated in terms of age however, with several middle-age and pension age clients struggling to afford expensive energy payments. Many clients in this age bracket have been unaware of the energy support available, with much of it being advertised on the internet or gov.uk website. We have ensured that such clients are able to navigate the myriad of energy related information that is communicated over the internet and

that they are receiving all the support they are entitled to.

Many of the clients we have helped also suffer from multiple health conditions. When providing energy support to these clients we have discovered that many of these clients have not been accessing the necessary benefits or housing according to their health needs. Our holistic approach to advice has been especially crucial here as we have been able to help the client with several types of issues at first contact and ensure they are then able to receive help from specialists, eg debt and benefits, in our wider local team.

Throughout this project we have found that the majority of our clients requiring energy support are those that pay using Prepayment Meters (PPMs), however many billed customers have also struggled to maintain payments. Regardless of payment type, we have ensured that all clients are receiving any financial assistance that they qualify for in addition to providing practical energy advice to help maximise their income.

Off grid clients have had to endure a lengthy winter without access to fuel support, however sources have steadily become available and we have made sure to direct this support accordingly. Recently, we have helped isolated clients to access emergency supplies of bottled gas and heating oil to ensure that they do not experience a prolonged period without heating. We have also made sure to notify off grid clients that they are now able to claim £400 to help with their energy costs as part of the Energy Bills Support Scheme Alternative Funding.

If you need help with energy, please get in touch by filling out the form at www.citizensadviceSwale.uk/hsf

For help with other issues (eg benefits, debt or housing), please email us at www.citizensadviceSwale.uk/email-general-advice or call Adviceline on freephone 0808 278 7979.

We run drop-in sessions at Swale House in Sittingbourne every Monday (10am-12pm) and at 43 Stone Street in Faversham every Wednesday and Friday (10am-12pm). No appointment needed.

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Eastling Primary School

Eastling Primary School are delighted to see the progress that our children have made in their swimming lessons. These range from non-swimmers becoming confident swimmers able to swim 25m and in one case being able to swim seven lengths to a child achieving 1000m.

There have been a number of sporting events which our children have recently taken part in.

On Wednesday 8th February a group of children from across the school took part in a cross-country event at Herne Bay High School. A child in Year 2 came first in the Year 2 race which was a fantastic achievement. The school football team played Boughton on Wednesday 22nd February and drew 2-2 and Herne Juniors on Friday 24th February. In both matches we were the only school to have a mixed team. The school is proud to have both boys and girls in the football team. Next year we are looking to have a girl's football team to represent the school. On Wednesday 8th March a group of Year 2 children took part in an infant agility event at Herne Bay High.

On Wednesday 22nd February Trickster Trailer came to school to deliver workshops to our Year 4 and 5 children as part of their current project 'What lies beneath us, what lies before us is beneath us.' They used natural materials to make

sun prints (cyanotypes) and sculptures combining the sun prints and natural objects. The week beginning Monday 27th February was World Book Week. There were daily activities including assemblies, teacher swap, online workshops and dressing up day. The FOES cake sales are a great success and we recently had Acorn class cake sale.

There are lots of exciting events planned for the next couple of weeks in school. These include the Year 6 residential trip to PGL Marchants Hill, Acorn and Year 1 trip to Yew Tree Farm and Outdoor learning day.

The Foes have organised some Easter events including a sponsored Bunny Hop and the Easter Bonnet Parade. The school will be visiting St Mary's on Thursday 30th March for an Easter Service.

The school has a couple of spaces available for an immediate start in Reception class. Any prospective parents looking for a Reception place for September 2023 are welcome to call the office on 01795 890252 to arrange a visit.

For further information please visit our school website where photographs and newsletters are displayed and updated regularly.

Melanie Dale, Headteacher.



A Country Walk

By Audrey Keen

Rooks croak and squeak and squeal
Above the growing corn
Where the sky is grey and misty
And dismal on the morn.
The tom tit and the blackbird
Sing through the length of the day,
While argumentative sparrows
Swoop wide and low as they play.
White candles on the chestnut tree
Give shelter to the hare,
Beside the sleepy farmhouse
Where woodpeckers find their fayre.
The skylark sings to fill the heart
With joy and happy sound
That touches everything he sees
That lives here on the ground.
This is the spring of another year
But, as every season calls,
From summer into Autumn
When the shining chestnut falls.
I can't reason why it is
I feel close to all I see
Except to say that 'This is love
And is a part of me'.



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Why Easter will never go away

How do you make sense of the Resurrection? Dead men don't rise, so why believe that this particular dead man *did* rise?

At the end of St Luke's gospel we read that: "they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement" (Luke 24:4). This is highly significant. The Gospels do not show us a group of disciples who were in a receptive frame of mind. After the crucifixion, they were in hiding, frightened and scattered. Then suddenly, they came out of hiding and were totally different; excited, joyful. By Pentecost they were confident, with one firm message: 'You crucified Jesus, but God raised Him up!'

How did they know this? Because of direct personal experience. Some of them had visited the tomb of Jesus: it was empty. Others claimed to have seen and touched the risen Lord. Were they hallucinating? People can hallucinate in groups – when taking drugs, for example. But of course, each one will see a different hallucination. But the disciples all saw the same thing. Or rather, the same person. Jesus.

Were they lying? Jesus had died a humiliating death as a criminal. Perhaps

they wanted to rescue His good name. So, did they pretend they had seen Him?

This theory has a big problem. Their preaching led them into trouble with the authorities. They were beaten and imprisoned and some of them killed. People will die for ideas and causes which they believe in passionately. But not for things they have made up. We might suffer for our convictions, but we will not suffer for our inventions.

What about the 'swoon' theory? That Jesus didn't die on the cross, despite terrible wounds? That He recovered in the tomb, and then escaped? That the disciples nursed Him back to health? But Roman soldiers knew when a man was dead; and there was the guard on the tomb. Also, the events which followed simply don't fit. If the disciples had been hiding Jesus all along, they would have kept very low-key, and out of the way, so that the authorities did not come after Him again.

Besides, to preach that God had raised Jesus from the dead – which is exactly what they did preach – would have been a lie. Beatings and threat of death would soon have loosened their tongues. Inventions crumble under pressure; convictions hold fast.

Another reason for believing the Resurrection is this: Jesus' continuing impact. Thousands and soon millions of people in every generation since have shared an inescapable sense of being 'accompanied' through life. Though unseen, they identify this presence as the Risen Lord.

Sometimes this experience of meeting Jesus is gentle and fitful. Sometimes it is dramatic and life changing. This reminds us that the resurrection of Jesus is not just an interesting historical puzzle. It is a vital, present day reality. It brings wonderful comfort, assuring us of the central Christian truths: death is dead; Jesus is alive; God is love.

This central notion was captured, most movingly, by the great Albert Schweitzer: 'He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word: "Follow thou me," and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfil for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts, the suffering which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is.' Have a joyful – and a challenging – Easter.

North Downs Walk
for Cancer Research UK

Rotary Weald of Kent




Sunday 11th June 2023
Details and registration online at
www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk/north-downs-walk

A sponsored walk, starting and finishing at Hinxtonham Village Hall, with a ploughman's lunch and musical entertainment.

Choice of 1, 3, 6 and 9 mile routes.

50% of sponsorship money is donated to Cancer Research UK, and the other 50% to your choice of charity or good cause. An opportunity for your fundraising, with Rotary promoting the organisation.

All expenses are underwritten by our event sponsor, Family Funeral Services. Every penny raised will go to the charities.




Rotary is a registered charity in England and Wales (209456). It is also registered in Scotland (SC039446) and in the Isle of Man (1189). Registered office: 100, The Quadrant, Exeter, Devon, EX1 1HQ.

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