

Good News Parish Magazine

for High Downs Parish

Serving the villages of Eastling, Otterden,
Stalisfield and Throwley

www.goodnews.rf.gd



Simon Fletcher
with his Map of
Stalisfield
Churchyard



MAY 2025

- 4th Church Tower Open Day
Throwley Church from 3.30pm
- 5th Spring Fair
Belmont Gardens 11am - 4pm
- 7th Otterden & Stalisfield W.I. (AGM)
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 13th Eastling Parish Council Meeting
Eastling Village Hall 6.30pm
- 14th Arts Society lecture, Egerton
Millennium Hall, Egerton 2.30pm
- 14th Youth Group
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 15th Local History Society Annual Meeting
Charing Parish Hall 7.30pm
- 15th Stalisfield Annual Parish Meeting
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.45pm
- 20th Copy deadline for June 2025 Good
News: goodnewsmagazine@me.com
- 21st Mid-week Holy Communion
Wychling Church 11am
- 22nd Arts Society lecture, Faversham
Alexander Centre 11am
- 23rd Together in Boots walking group
Doddington Church leave at 2pm
- 28th Youth Group
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 29th Ascension Day Holy Communion
Doddington Church 7.30pm

JUNE

- 4th Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 7th Throwley Forstal Green Fête
Throwley Fête 1 - 5pm
Bar & Live Music 6 - 11.30pm
- 8th Newnham Open Gardens 1 - 6pm
Newnham Village & Church
- 22nd Animal Blessing Service
Otterden Chapel 3.30pm
- 29th Eastling School Fête
Eastling School Field 12 - 3pm

At our Easter Day Service,

Simon Fletcher kindly presented a Map of the Churchyard
to St Mary's Church, Stalisfield.

Simon had combined his Carpentry & Joinery skills with his 35 years' experience as a draughtsman to produce this wonderful, detailed layout of the church graves, complete with an inventory of names cross referenced to grave locations. Having grown up in the village of Stalisfield, he and his family have retained their links with the church and still live near the parish. We are very grateful for the significant amount of his time that has been put in to researching and producing this magnificent map and for the help also given by Ray Sprawson.

The map will be hung in the vestry for reference and a smaller 'portable' version is on display inside the entrance to the church. Simon can be contacted by email: fletcherjoinery-works@yahoo.co.uk, he works on a wide range of projects from summer houses, conservatories, galleries, residential properties to office refurbishments, restaurants, and public houses.

Please take time to visit St Mary's Church, Stalisfield to see Simon's masterpiece, and feel free to take the smaller copy out into the churchyard.

Jenny King - Churchwarden to St Mary's Church, Stalisfield.

Sunday 4th May from 3.30pm

THROWLEY CHURCH TOWER OPEN DAY

CLIMB THE TOWER & SEE THE VIEWS

To celebrate the restoration of the bells and belfry the FRIENDS OF THROWLEY CHURCH is holding an open day with tours up the tower to see the bells and the view from the tower roof. Donations of £5 per person. Accompanied tours only, no under 15s. Please be aware there are three ladders to climb and a narrow spiral staircase.

Message for the Month

Hello friends

I am writing this just after a fundraising Open Mic event was held at Doddington Church. It was a fabulous afternoon packed with local musicians of all genres from blues, jazz, acapella, shanties and more, coming together to celebrate the power of music. Some of it was toe-tapping with lyrics as familiar as favourite shoes; some of it was gentle and evocative, drawing forth memories long forgotten; some of it was beautiful, transcending time and place. Who among us doesn't have at least one favourite song? Music has that ability to cut through barriers – to bypass the rational and to speak directly to the heart; to linger in parts of the brain when dementia has robbed the power of speech; to bond and unite people of different sides – those who sing in choirs will testify that it's hard not to love people when you sing together.

The power of music goes back to the mists of time. The bible writers knew it: 'the trumpeters and musicians joined in unison to give praise and thanks to the Lord' 2 Chronicles 5:13.

When we are joined together in music-making something

very powerful happens to us our physicality and our sense of community. 'Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord' Ephesians 5:18-19. God wants us to express our emotions, to bring our authentic selves to him. Music can be a means of us connecting with God, and a means of God connecting with us too, speaking through the movements of the heart and the lyrics that will not let us go. What is your song? What hums in you to accompany your days, to soothe sorrow, to encourage joy? Is there a refrain to hold you and remind you how much you are loved?

Music sustains hope in difficult times – amongst many examples, the early gospel songs soothed the souls of oppressed people shackled to a life of slavery. Our world is increasingly a difficult place where fear and anxiety seek to take the upper hand. Might music be one of the ways that God can use to to calm us, to unite us, to reassure us of his love and to tell us 'You are the sunshine of my life, that's why I'll always be around!'

With love & light
Lissie Bayford
Authorised Lay Minister &
Spiritual Director



Nigel Beeton writes: May sees the eightieth anniversary of VE Day - Tuesday, 8th May 1945. In my own family, a great uncle (Keith Emmerson) had died in Italy in March 1944, and my wife's uncle (Alexander Rae) had died in Belgium in October. These recent bereavements muted the celebrations, to say the least. This year, we have 80 years of peace in the UK to celebrate, though once again the shadows of war darken the sky...

The bells rang out in England

The bells rang out in England
And songs of heartfelt joy,
But 'midst the cheers were bitter tears
For each lost man and boy.

The six long years of fighting
Had such a dreadful cost
In blood and sweat and mortal threat
And countless lives were lost.

It now, at last, had ended –
In Europe's shores at least;
Our people brave feared not the grave
To slay the Nazi beast.

The lessons learned stayed with us For
eighty peaceful years.
Yet now, again, some brutal men Are
raising wartime fears.

We should be celebrating
This coming VE Day;
Yet not at ease, but on our knees For
lasting peace, we pray.

By Nigel Beeton

Prayer Pointers

Sundays - Sing praises to the Lord who made Heaven and Earth.

Mondays - For the work of our Hospices.

Tuesdays - For all suffering mental health problems.

Wednesdays - For all living with visual, aural or physical impairments.

Thursdays - For Christian Aid and all giving and receiving their help .

Fridays - Give thanks that we celebrate 80 years of peace.

Saturdays - Pray for those living under curfew or in countries suffering war.

Eastling Church Flower Rota



May 4th & 11th - Cerys

May 18th & 25th - Gemma

June 1st & 8th - Julia M

If you would like to join the
flower arranging rota, please call
Bay on 01795 892036.



Otterden with Stalisfield W.I.

The West Kent Federation of the W.I. held their AGM at Gravesend, which a few of our Group attended. After the required business was completed we were treated to a couple of good Speakers. The first was Janine Ramsay who was very entertaining, but the Speaker we were looking forward to was Adam Frost from Gardeners World fame - he did not disappoint. Adam is just the same as he appears on television, a natural speaker, informative and entertaining. He interrupted his current tour to join us from Durham and was accompanied by his daughter, so he had to behave himself!

April's Meeting was the Mature Driving Course. Kent County Council supply these free Courses to any interested group and our Speaker was Jack Winslade. Although it was only his second time delivering this Course, he was very good at conveying the information to us all. There was excellent attendance, from both the W.I. Group and local villagers of a certain age. The evening highlighted areas that would be of interest to our age group and various rules & regulations that have evolved over time. We were all supplied with an information pack at the end of the evening which included the latest Highway Code which has changed considerably since most of us took their Driving Tests. Definitely worth a read for everyone to update our knowledge.

The Meeting on 7th May will be the AGM, so once the business is finished we will be having a social evening with beverages and cake of course. We meet the first Wednesday of each month at Stalisfield Village Hall. Guests are very welcome at a small donation of £5 to cover refreshments. If you would like to join our Group please contact our President Helen Brooks on 07477580727 or Ellie Cameron on 01795 892016.

SATURDAY 7TH JUNE

THROWLEY FETE

1PM TO 5PM

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The Arts Society Faversham

The Arts Society is the UK's leading arts education charity that brings people together through a shared curiosity in the arts. We enjoy illustrated talks on a fascinating wide range of topics, outings to galleries and historic houses and an elegant annual Society Dinner. Meetings are held at The Alexander Centre in Preston Street, Faversham on the 4th Thursday of the month. Come along for a complimentary coffee at 10.20am for the 11am start. You can try us out for a modest fee and no doubt will want to become a member!

Thursday 22nd May 2025:

'Dress code —10 iconic dresses'.

The lecturer is Alexandra Epps, who will be telling us of the ten iconic dresses within ten famous portraits from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

SPECIAL INTEREST DAY

"What do they get up to in there?" On May 8th 2025 10.30-3.15pm.

Lyndon Jones, Roy Campbell.

Learn from two senior Masons about the history of the Masons and take a private tour of the Masonic Lodge of Faversham.

£38.00 including a light lunch.

Contact Maureen Bush, Membership Secretary:

tolly@clara.co.uk or visit our website:

www.theartsocietyfaversham.org.uk

THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON

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

We meet at Egerton Millennium Hall, Elm Close TN27 9DS on the second Wednesday of each month at 2.30pm (doors open from 2.00). Our next lecture will be:

Wednesday 14th May at 2.30 pm:

FABER & FABER -

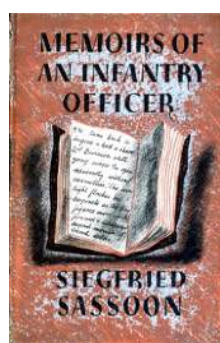
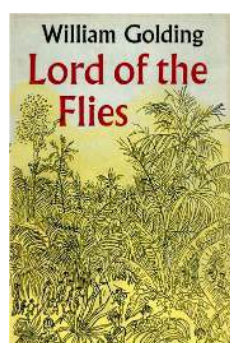
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Tony Faber: Author of 'Faber & Faber - the untold story' and other books, was managing director of the publishing company for 5 years.

Visitors are always very welcome at £6 (just turn up and pay on the door), refunded if you join. 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

Images provided by lecturer



Your history society needs YOU

... to share a glass of wine with us, or tea, coffee, soft drinks, nibbles as well as a Display of exciting local finds by our very own metal detectorists Rob and Denise.



Please come to the AGM

Thursday 15th May 2025

Parish Hall, Station Road, Charing

Start promptly at 7.30pm



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www.charinghistory.co.uk



BLESSING of the ANIMALS

**Animal Blessing Service for
"All Creatures Great and Small"
to be held at Otterden Chapel
Sunday 22nd June at 3.30 pm.
Further details in the June Good News.**



Please Note our New Time!

Together in Boots

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through woodland

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Services in our Benefice

4th May Easter 3

Acts 9. 1 - 20, John 21. 1 - 19

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Norton 10.30am Morning Worship

11th May Easter 4

Acts 9. 36 - 43, John 10. 22 - 30

Throwley 10.30am Morning Prayer

Lynsted 10.30am All Together Now

Newnham 10.30am Holy Communion

18th May Easter 5

Acts 11. 1 - 18, John 13. 31 - 35

Eastling 10.30am Morning Worship

Norton 10.30am Holy Communion

21st May, Wednesday

Wychling 11am Holy Communion

25th May Easter 6

Acts 16. 9 - 15, John 14. 23 - 29

Throwley 10.30am Holy Communion
followed by Annual Church Council meeting

Newnham 10.30am Morning Worship

29th May Ascension Day

Acts 1. 1 - 11, Luke 24. 44 - 53

Doddington 7.30pm Holy Communion

1st June Easter 7

Acts 16. 16 - 34, John 17. 20 - 26

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Norton 10.30am Morning Worship

Online Daily Worship Continues

9am Morning Prayer will continue on the
Benefice Facebook Page via <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/>

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:

ramshawcaroline@gmail.com 07799 538 809

High Downs Parish

Rector Revd Paula Jardine-Rose

07516 411269 paula.jardine.rose@kc-hd.org.uk

Parish Administrator Joyce Warren

01795 521831 joyce.warren@kc-hd.org.uk

Associate Priest Reverend James (Jim) Pye

01795 890726 jim.pye@kc-hd.org.uk

Reader Caroline Ramshaw (07799 538809)

Anna Chaplain Caroline Ramshaw
ramshawcaroline@gmail.com

Reader Pim Baxter (07710 116269)

Church Contacts

Eastling Andrew Baxter, Warden (07749 403727)

Administrator E mail: stmaryeastling@gmail.com

Stalisfield with Otterden

Jenny King, Warden (01795 890366)

Chrissie Webster, Administrator
(07590 351977)

Throwley David Elvin, Warden (07973 837122)

E mail: david.j.elvin@gmail.com

High Downs Parish Safeguarding Officer

Mark Harlow (07979 864000)

E mail: mark.harlow@kc-hd.org.uk

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

High Downs Parish

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be
held in St. Michael and All Angels Church, Throwley,
on Sunday 25th May 2025 at 11.30am.

New Parish Electoral Roll

This year the existing Electoral Roll needs to be
reviewed and members should fill in a new form
of application. Forms are available from, and
must be completed and returned to the Electoral

Roll Officer, Caroline Ramshaw

(ramshawcaroline@gmail.com),

by 10th May 2025.

CONTACT THE *GOOD NEWS* EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like to submit articles, or to advertise in
the June 2025 magazine, send your submission by 20th
May to: goodnewsmagazine@me.com.

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

News from Citizens Advice Swale

Are you worried about debt and rising bills?

With energy, water and broadband bills on the rise, it's getting increasingly difficult for many people to cover their expenses. It's important to know you're not alone in finding things difficult and that financial support might be available to help ease the burden.

Checking benefits eligibility

A significant number of eligible people don't claim the benefits that are available to them, so it's important to understand what you're entitled to. You may be able to claim benefits if, for example, you're at working age and on a low income, you're sick or disabled, are of State Pension age with a low income or no income, or if you're a carer. Contact us for help with checking you're receiving everything you're entitled to.

Reducing outgoings

If you claim benefits or are on a low income, you may be eligible for a reduction in Council Tax. Discounts can also be given to students, those living with a carer, or people who live alone, to name some examples. If you have children and claim certain benefits, or are on a low income, you may qualify for free school meals, transport to school, or support with the cost of uniform.

We may be able to help you pay for things like energy and water bills, food or other essential costs, through the Household Support Fund. Contact us to find out more. To reduce other expenses, you may be able to switch to a cheaper broadband deal, get a water meter fitted, or access discounted travel options. We can help with this too.

Creating a budget and prioritising bills

If you're finding it difficult to stay on top of bills, budgeting tools like the one on the MoneyHelper website can be very useful in helping you understand what money you have coming in and going out each month.

If you're behind on bills, you should prioritise paying rent, mortgage payments, Council Tax and energy bills, as these are known as 'priority' debts which have the most serious consequences if missed. Once you've got priority debts under control, you should look at credit card or store card debts, missed Buy Now Pay Later payments or payday loans. Whatever debt you're dealing with, it's important to speak to the person or company you owe money to as early as you can. You could show them a copy of your budget to let them know what your financial situation is and then see if there are any steps you can take to start dealing with your debt.

Just remember, you're not alone and we're here to support you.

Here's how to contact us for advice:

Drop-in sessions (no appointment necessary)

Monday, 10am-12pm, Swale House, Sittingbourne

Tuesday, 10am-12pm, Sheppey Gateway, Sheerness (except the second Tuesday of every month, which is held at Sheerness East Working Mens Club)

Tuesday, 11.30am-1.30pm, Murston Family Hub, Tonge Road

Wednesday & Friday, 10am-12pm, 43 Stone Street, Faversham

Telephone advice

Call Adviceline on freephone 0808 278 7979 (Monday-Friday 10am-3.30pm)

Email advice

Contact us online at www.citizensadvice.org.uk/email-general-advice (Monday-Wednesday)

Debt advice

Request a call back from our specialist money advice team at www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt

To stay up to date with our opening times, please visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk or follow us on Facebook.

**citizens
advice**



Beneath a sunny sky

by Audrey Keen

And as I touch wild honied
roses
As the sun shines warm on me
As the blackbird chants above
And cuckoos too I see,
I rest in blissful solitude
Beneath a waking beech
And feel God's love and
blessing
Come to me in all but speech.
I watch the handsome oak leaf
And ash trees cover too
While I enjoy my reverie
Beneath the distant blue.
And only time moves on to chase
This so delightful day,
And fading too my comforter,
The sun, now gone away.

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Peony Time

Season – mid May – early June (all being well!!!)

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Seasonal Bouquets and Orders taken (funeral tributes, events etc).

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Social Media – Facebook and Instagram (new)

CLIMATE CHANGE IS HAPPENING.

Anyone interested in an easy read outlining Climate Change could visit the guide produced by the BBC: <https://www.bbc-uk/news/science-environment-24021772>

The Met Office has issued a number of warnings concerning the possibilities of wild fires in the UK following warm, dry weather. Kent and Sussex are included. At the time of writing, some farmers and gardeners are concerned by the prolonged lack rain.

A study undertaken by the University of New South Wales suggests that 40% could be wiped off the global economy in the event

of a 4C rise in temperature. According to the researchers, this figure takes into account ways in which economies around the globe are tightly connected by financial systems, supply chains and trade. According to the World Meteorological Organisation, global temperatures are expected to rise by 3.5C this century. Environmentalists are pointing out that massive problems could arise in regard to food production, including in the UK. Farmers are brilliant at adapting but such a massive change in temperature would be very, very difficult – as it would likely to be accompanied by drought and wildfires.

At the time of writing most parts of the UK are enjoying warm weather and blue skies while other countries are threatened with flooding; central USA could record what would normally be four months' rain in just one week. While fears of this Extreme Weather Event were growing, other parts of the US have been suffering devastating wildfires fuelled by excessively dry weather.

Last year torrential rain caused millions of pounds of damage to Nepal's largest hydropower plant. Currently repair work remains incomplete. Nepal had committed to reaching net-zero by 2045 but inevitably success is threatened in a country that is largely dependent on hydropower.

Some parts of India experienced temperatures of 1.3C above normal in February. Last year the country recorded its highest- ever temperature: 50.5C.

Following Mr Trump's tariff impositions, global supply chains are under pressure including some of the parts needed in clean energy production.

Good news related to Climate Change and the environment is rare and so a report that Australia is recording a 40% decline in plastic pollution along the coastlines of major cities is very welcome. Further, the country has pledged to reuse *all* plastic waste by 2040.

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Considering the scars on Jesus' hands...

The ordeal is over; the scars remain

"Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where nails were, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe it." (John 20:25)

How patient Jesus was, in giving 'Doubting Thomas' a second chance! Earlier, the risen Christ had said to His disciples, "Peace be with you!" (verse 19). And it is only because of those scarred hands that His peace is made available.

There have been many religious leaders in history – but only one had scars as the proof of what He had achieved. It is also evident that – after Christ's bodily resurrection – the scars were never obliterated. "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe" (verse 27).

The ordeal was over – but the scars remain – for ever. At the end of time – in the future New Creation – our Lord Jesus Christ will still have those scars, when He is affirmed as 'the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world' (Revelation 3:8). The apostle Peter himself echoed the timelessness of the Cross of Calvary (1 Peter 1:20). The Cross and Resurrection form the centrepiece of our entire human story.

The scarred hands... It is vital that one and all should receive the lesson that Thomas learned that day: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (verse 29)

For it would not be long before the bodily presence of the Lord would be removed from human sight. From then on, it would be the preaching of the apostolic witnesses that would take Christ's message to the ends of the world. Thomas himself was going to be despatched to India! Later would see

Augustine to Canterbury, Francis sent to Assisi, Patrick to Ireland and Livingstone to Africa.

Today sees the mission of the risen Jesus criss-crossing all over the world – creating the biggest and fastest-growing body of belief ever known.

Be a living exponent of this Easter Gospel yourself. Use it, proclaim it, know it and live it. Then you can identify along with believing Thomas!



North Downs Walk

for Cancer Research UK

Rotary
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SUNDAY 8th JUNE 2025

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Defibrillators in our Villages

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ME13 0BE

Eastling School (School days only, 8am - 4.30pm) sited in
the corridor of Main Building. ME13 0BA

Stalisfield sited at Stalisfield Village Hall, ME13 0HY

Throwley sited in the old Telephone Box outside
the Old Post Office, ME13 0PJ

Eastling Parish Council
The Annual Parish Council
Meeting will be held on Tuesday
13th May, 6.30pm
at Eastling Village Hall.

Eastling Neighbourhood Watch



Village Warden 07794 010 394
or 01795 890848

Police 101 Emergency 999

For any cyber attacks or scam
calls please report it on
0330 123 2040

With Spring here and summer approaching the hedge rows are going to grow very quickly and cut the visibility at corners on the roads so please take care. Unfortunately there are still people who tend to drive as if they can see around corners much to everybody's dismay.

We hear in the news everyday about lives being lost due to drink/drug driving. It is not acceptable to do this and I understand the police will be using unmarked vehicles in rural areas to crack down on this unnecessary loss of life.

Fortunately not in our area but there has been livestock attacked by uncontrolled dogs in other areas. Please keep your dog on a lead and under control in the vicinity of livestock. Thank you
Have a good month.

Alan



Stalisfield Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on
Thursday 15th May at 7.45pm. There will be a
presentation of the KALC Community Award to recognise a
resident who has made a significant contribution to our local
community. Please come along and show your support.
The Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held after the
Annual Parish Meeting
All are welcome to attend.

There is no such thing as a Dog Poo Fairy

Concern has been raised about the amount of dog mess left in our village. As well as being generally unpleasant, dog excrement can cause toxocariasis, leading to serious health issues like breathing problems, seizures, and blindness, especially in children.

It is a criminal offence under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 for anyone to fail to clean up after their dog when it fouls any footpath, highway, verge or other open space to which the public have access.



Failure to pick up and dispose of dog mess is an anti-social offence and you could be fined £250 or face prosecution. You won't be offered a pass if you say you didn't know, and not having any bags is not an acceptable excuse either, so make sure you have some with you when you leave your home.

Please clean up after your dog and help make our village a cleaner place to live.

You can report dog fouling to Swale Borough Council online:-
<https://swale.gov.uk/bins-littering-and-the-environment/littering/report-dog-fouling>

Danger on rural roads

Did you know that driving on rural roads is more dangerous than driving on urban ones? According to the NFU Mutual's Rural Road Safety report for 2023, the number of lives lost on rural roads was a staggering 70% higher than on urban highways. Also, collisions on rural roads were around four times more likely to result in a fatality than on an urban one.

The reasons as to why this should be included are: changing speed limits, blind corners,

field entrances, narrow carriageways, single lanes with no hard shoulders, limited or no road lighting, mud and debris on the road, livestock and wild animals on the road, and agricultural vehicles.

And so it is that the NFU has campaigned to improve rural road safety, and it has now published its 'Code for Countryside Roads' to guide people as to how to drive safely. More info at: <https://www.nfumutual.co.uk>

Update from your local MP Helen Whately

A lot of people think catapults are just kids' toys. Yet I am receiving more and more emails from people sharing stories about how they are being used to cause devastating harm.

That's why I am campaigning for them to be classed as 'offensive weapons' so the Police have the powers they need to take action.

I have been told how catapults have been used to knock out people's teeth, seriously maim or kill pets and wildlife, as well damage property including shattering car windscreens and breaking house and shed windows. Reports about the damage catapults cause is growing more serious and more widespread.

I have been working hard to change the law. Last year, I led an initiative with other Kent MPs pressing the Home Office to do more to tighten up on catapults.

In January I met the Policing Minister to push for them to be classed as offensive weapons and grant the police the right to confiscate them.

I am now looking at whether I can get the forthcoming Crime Bill amended to achieve this. In the coming weeks I will be asking more questions in Parliament and following up with Ministers to keep up the pressure.

Sometimes anglers use a special kind of catapult to spread bait – but there's no reason for anglers to be affected by a crackdown on catapults used as weapons.

There is a Parliamentary petition calling for companies to be banned from selling dangerous catapults and ammunition in the UK which you can sign by typing in this link: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/701064> or searching for 'Parliamentary catapult petition'.

The petition was set up by Danni Rogers, a volunteer at the Shepperton Swan Sanctuary, after numerous attacks on swans. If the petition reaches 100,000 signatures by 27th May it will force a debate in Parliament – which will also help to raise awareness of the problem.

I will not rest until something is done, but I need your help. To build a strong case I want to gather as much evidence as possible. So, if you or someone you know has had a bad experience with catapults, please share it with me.

As ever, if I can help in any way, please reach out.

Best wishes
Helen Whately
helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk /
0207 219 6472

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Celebrating or holding a special event?

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Keep up to date by following us on Facebook, Instagram or X (twitter)

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ME13 0HY

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info@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk

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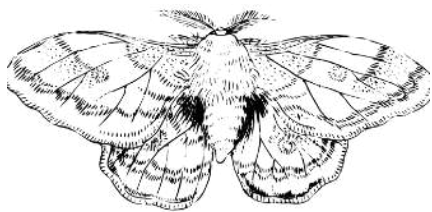
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Phone or Text Mike on:

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Email: michaelratcliff80@gmail.com



Why you should draw your curtains at night (especially if you live in the country)

Most of us draw our curtains at night, in order to ensure privacy. But there is another very valid reason: to help protect local wildlife.

It seems that insects who live in the countryside are very susceptible to bright lights, which can badly disrupt their overall health and general behaviour.

As one scientist explained: "We don't know exactly how fatal it is, but one estimate is that 33 per cent of all the insects attracted to light die before morning. And even if they don't die, they're spending all their time at the light instead of doing the things they're supposed to be doing."



Light pollution is now seen as adding to what some scientists have called "insect Armageddon", with a 75 per cent decline in insect populations in 30 years.

As one scientist said: "Small individual actions such as drawing curtains can make a big impact to our smallest creatures."

Don't look back



The Sunday School teacher was telling the story of how when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom and Gomorrah, she turned into a pillar of salt.

One youngster nodded in a knowing fashion. "My daddy looked back once while he was driving," he confided, "and he turned into a lamp post."



Stalisfield Youth Group!

Stalisfield Youth Group is for 11-17yr olds.

We meet on Wednesdays, usually twice a month, 7 - 8.30pm in the village hall AND it is free to come.

We have music, gaming, craft, table tennis, table football, **outside games in the Summer**, craft table, tuck shop (everything 10 - 50p), free cake and drink.

It is a time when young people can relax, hang out and catch up.

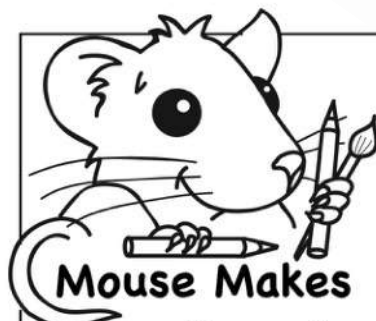
New Members Welcome

Upcoming Dates:

Wednesday 14th and 28th May

Contact Catherine 07929 928 046 or

clnwood@doctors.org.uk or see our Facebook page for more details.



MIRACLES OF PETER

At which temple gate did the crippled man lay?

Acts 3:1-10



Who were the man and wife who lied to God?

and

Acts 5:1-11



How long had Aeneas been paralysed for?

years

Acts 9:32-35

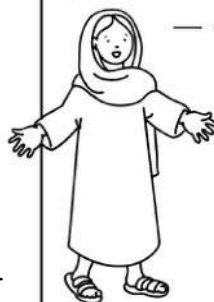
People carried the sick into the streets so that when Peter came by at least his

might fall on them.

Acts 5:12-16

Where had Tabitha's body been laid? in the

Acts 9:36-42



"And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly." Acts 6:7

E L P R A I S I N G M H
B E A U T I F U L M I T
S A R W S A P P H I R A
A P A C R I P P L E A B
N I L W O N D E R S C I
A N Y P W D I R A I L T
N G S R A A E R L C E H
I H E A L E D O I K S A
A K D Y K N F O V I L L
S Y P E T E R M E D E B
L I E D L A M E I G H T
G S I G N S S H A D O W

After Jesus ascended into heaven, the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles and Peter was able to perform many miracles in Jesus' name. See the book of ACTS



PETER • SIGNS • WONDERS • MIRACLES • HEALED
CRIPPLE • LAME • WALK • LEAPING • PRAISING • LIED • DIED • SICK
AENEAS • PARALISED • TABITHA • ILL • PRAYED • ALIVE

Find the words from the questions too!

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