

## Youth Club is open

in Eastling Village Hall  
every Sunday,  
6.30 - 8.30pm

### URGENTLY NEEDED

Adult Helpers - especially Parents - for  
**Eastling Youth Club**

This is the only meeting opportunity in Eastling for young people, aged 11 and over, where they can 'chill out' together.

**BUT** they need adult helpers to allow them to use the village hall, equipment and school field. There is absolutely no other commitment and you will only be needed once every 6 weeks.

To offer to help, please contact:

Simon Goldup 890991  
Jordan Turner 890991  
Ben Parker 890495

THANK YOU !!



*No, I do NOT believe you are the UK Olympic Synchronised Swimming Team with nowhere to train!! Out of my baptistry NOW!!*

**Mouse Makes**

**I RAN TO WIN**

**I HAVE COMPETED WELL**

**I FINISHED THE RACE**

In his letter to the Christians in Corinth the Apostle Paul encourages them to be like the athletes that trained for the Olympic games: **to be disciplined, to keep going, and to never give up.**  
READ 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

*"Run your best in the race of faith and win eternal life for yourself; for it was to this life that God called you..."*  
1 Timothy 6:12

**Make your own athlete's medal:**  
Glue this page onto card.  
Cut out each medal then cut out the ribbon slots (you may need help with this) Thread on 60cm of ribbon.  
Wear your medal with pride!

### The Olympic Torch Relay

will visit our area on  
Thursday 19th July.

In Faversham the torch bearers can be seen from 16.52 at the Love Lane/A2 junction, going round the town and finishing at the A251.

At Challock on the A251 just after Pested Lane at 17.51, going on to the A252, and on the A20 at Harrietsham from 18.19.

Eastling primary school pupil, Matthew Gaston, nominated his mum to be a torch bearer. Pauline had represented her school at Crystal Palace, being on of the top 100 and 200m sprinters for her age, and now she will be carrying the Olympic torch for 300m in Gravesend on 20th July; runners start on the A226 from 09.51.

### Olympic Torch Relay prayer

*As this light travels our nation, may your light, O God, shine in the hearts of all who gather to celebrate the energy, skill and dedication of others. Send your Holy Spirit to light up our lives and set our hearts on fire with love for you; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

# Good News

## Parish Magazine

July 2012



### Stalisfield Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday July 5<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm at Stalisfield Village Hall

This is your opportunity to raise concerns over matters affecting the village and its residents, and your chance to put across your point of view.

**At the meeting the New Village Hall plans will be unveiled** If you would like to raise any points to be discussed at the meeting, or would like to highlight the work of any local organisations you're involved with, please contact Rob Vaughan on 01795 890710 or rv@sigeac.com. The meeting will be preceded by the AGM of the Parish Council at 7pm and you are welcome to attend this as well.

### Shakespeare's comedy As You Like It

will be performed by the  
Hazlitt Theatre in the walled  
Garden at Belmont House,  
7.30pm, on Friday 20th July.  
Bring a blanket, some wine and  
a picnic, access to gardens from  
6.30pm

Tickets at £15 each can be  
booked at [www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk](http://www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk)  
or 01622  
817721



Have you heard of the Stalisfield Onion?  
That's bold and majestic in size,  
It's known as the Mammoth Onion  
And is sure to bring tears to your eyes.

It stands tall and proud in your garden,  
And it wants to win the prize  
Of a glistening silver trophy,  
Most pleasing to the eyes.

It's an Exhibition Onion  
And it wants to win the prize  
Of a glistening silver trophy,  
Most pleasing to the eyes.

The Fête is the day of Judgement  
And contestants must be strong,  
But the glory that awaits the victor  
Can be cherished the whole day long.

So come on and bring your onions  
And try to win our prize,  
A gleaming, handsome trophy  
That too may bring tears to your eyes

The Onion Man

And don't forget...  
**Odd One Out**

### Eastling School Fête

Sunday 1st July

12 - 3pm

Come along and enjoy an afternoon at our traditional English fete! New for this year - A magical yurt, Hailbop Jazz Band, Basketball and Jubilee Tea Rooms! As well as all the traditional stalls and some 'wacky races' in the Arena. Come along and win some of our FANTASTIC prizes. First prize in our Grand Raffle is an iPad and second prize and Olympic Silver £5 coin as well as many other great prizes and tickets only 50p! We hope to see you there.

## Stalisfield Summer Life

August comes but once a year but this time in Stalisfield we are flouting convention and planning for a double August.

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> August we are staging

### The Stalisfield Olympics

in which The Independent Republic of (where else but) Stalisfield will match its athletic strengths against designated nations of the world in the barn of Derbies Court. If you enjoyed Frog Racing you will love the Olympics.

In response to public insistence, the traditional fish and chip supper will be included in the inflation defying ticket price of £10 for adults and £6 for children. Mark the date. You dare not risk missing out.

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August we will mount the fabulous

### Stalisfield Summer Fête

on the Green at Stalisfield. There will be something for everyone to buy, win, watch or eat. Details of the delights are still being firmed up but you can be sure that all the old favourites will be there together with a few new ones. This will be a day for the whole family to enjoy. We'll see you there! More detail next month.

The news magazine for the parishes of Eastling, Stalisfield with Otterden, and Throwley

## What is healing?

To some people healing is a natural process that our bodies go through without help. Some people require the knowledge of a GP or the skills of a surgeon to help with this process. Others require healing of the mind, others healing of relationships perhaps with children, families or friends.

Healing is different for all of us.....

Healing to me is the desire to feel whole, complete and at peace. I have received healing in many ways. Seventeen years ago I was diagnosed with a condition that, I was told, would put me in a wheelchair within 10 years, at the time I walked with the aid of a crutch and wore a neck collar. Those of you who know me now, will know I am not in that wheelchair and neither do I use a crutch or collar. Why not? Well someone in my last church did an alternative therapy on me and I believe he also prayed for me as I felt a different person, complete and whole again.

A few years ago our church in Eastling held the first in a series of healing services. We were privileged to have Bishop Graham to lead us and I went up for healing prayer. I had three issues which were worrying me so much that my condition was starting to make itself known. The bishop prayed for me and laid his hands on me. I felt the power of God move

through me. Within 3 weeks of this service all three worries were resolved, I had no control over these concerns but they were solved, my prayers had been answered.

The healing team here at Eastling have moved from strength to strength over the years, we have become a strong team. As many of you know we have a prayer request book in the church for anybody to write their loved ones in and they will be included in the prayers at the following church service. We also have a prayer circle; this works by phoning the given number and we all phone each other then we pray for whoever needs our prayers. We also offer the laying on of hands during and after the communion service on the first Sunday of the month.

The power of prayer should not be underestimated. Sometimes just knowing you are being prayed for can give reassurance, to know people are thinking of you brings comfort.



This "service" is available to all, we don't judge and you don't even have to explain why you need prayer if you don't want to..... Visit the

church to write in our prayer book or phone 534083 and speak to Chris or Dave who will be only too happy to pass on your prayer request. Alternatively you can come to the communion service, or pop in afterwards, and ask for the healing team member available and speak to them.  
*Caroline Ramshaw*  
*Authorised Lay Minister Healing and Wholeness*

### Eastling Church Flower Rota

July 1st	Jan Beckenham
8th & 15th	Jan Williams
22nd & 29th	Clive Jolliffe
August 5th	Nerys Condrup

## The Bird and the Snake

There is a story told of a man who was out in the forests of South America, when he saw a bird chirping and fluttering in great distress. He soon saw why. Creeping along the branch of the tree towards her nest was a great venomous snake, intent on taking her fledglings, who were still helpless in the nest. Suddenly the bird flew away, and the man thought she had abandoned her chicks. But no, a few moments later she was back, with a small twig covered in leaves in her mouth. The bird placed this twig over her babies in the nest, and flew to a branch nearby, to watch for the snake's arrival.



Sure enough, the snake glided along the branch, and paused in front of the nest. It reared its sleek head, eyes glittering, its tongue darting here and there, ready to strike. Suddenly its tongue came into contact with the twig that the bird had laid across the nest. The result was dramatic. The snake veered back and away, as if it had been stabbed by the little twig. It swayed for a minute, and then slid quickly off and down the tree, disappearing into the long grass.

The man was fascinated, and carefully lifted the twig off of the nest, wrapped it in a bit of cloth, and took it home with him. He showed the twig to a native friend, asking what it was. His native friend explained that the twig was from a bush that was poisonous for the snake, and which it was known never to touch. The little helpless bird had used the small twig as her strong defence from attack.

Satan in scripture is known as 'that old serpent' He is intent on the destruction of people. But God has told us in his Word that there is a tree which is poison to our enemy, and which offers protection for all of us, old and young alike. It is the cross of Jesus Christ. On the cross Jesus died for our sins. We need no longer live under evil dominion.



The Mobile Library visits Eastling, every fortnight, at the entrance to Glebe Cottages. It is open to everyone, free of charge. July dates are Tuesdays 10th and 24th, 10.50 - 11.05am.

## Eastling Neighbourhood Watch

Contact Numbers:  
Parish / Village Warden 07794 010 394  
Crimestoppers 0800 555111  
Swale Police 101 Emergency 999

Good news for the majority, bad news for the minority: It has been announced that the village is to have its 30 mph speed limit at last. The Parish Council have been fighting for this for longer than I can remember and, at last, Kent County Council and the Police have agreed and hopefully it will not be long before the signs go up.

There have been a few email scams recently in the locality relating to emails being hacked and the contacts of that particular person being emailed informing them that they are stranded in a foreign country, have lost all their cash and cards, and requesting that cash be transferred by Western union to a particular bank account. Ignore these emails and delete asap.

Congratulations to those who organised and participated in the Jubilee Party which was indeed a great success - also to those, whoever they may be, for arranging for the Spitfire to fly over at the appointed time.

Have a good month and take care out there. Alan.



The Rev Paul Hardingham considers striving for excellence in our lives

## Going for Gold

This month sees the start of the London Olympics, with the eyes of the world focused on the games. The apostle Paul was also aware of the importance of the games in his day, as reflected in these words: 'Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.' Philippians 3:13,14. The Olympic athlete trains and competes with a clear focus on winning a medal; they say, 'One thing

I do.' If we are to excel in any area our life, we have to say, 'This one thing I do.' Do we have a clear aim or are we simply taking whatever comes our way? For the Christian, our purpose in life is defined by our relationship with Jesus Christ. He calls us into a friendship with himself that can begin today and last for eternity. We can look the day when we stand before Jesus Christ and hear him say, 'Well done, good and faithful servant'.

For Paul, the key questions to ask include: Have I left the past behind and fully moved on? What progress am I making in my life? Am I passionately pursuing my hopes and dream?

Twelve years ago, Eric Moussambani, from Equatorial Guinea, became a cult hero at the Sydney Olympics when he swam a 100 metre freestyle heat as the only swimmer, and in a record slowest time of 1:52.72. However, because the other two swimmers had been disqualified, he won the heat! The crowd of 17,000 gave him a standing ovation and Eric became an instant sensation, though he still didn't qualify for the semifinals. Before coming to the Olympics, Eric had never even seen a 50 m long Olympic-size swimming pool. He took up swimming only eight months before the Olympics and had practiced in a 20 m pool back home. Yet amazingly he is back at THIS year's Olympics - as the coach of the Equatorial Guinea team.

His story can be our story in the Olympics of life. Yes, we may struggle, but we need to keep going. If we fix our eyes on Jesus, he will empower us to finish the race, which is what it is all about. We can endure through his strength. If our goal is to win in Jesus Christ, his victory will be ours!

July



2012



## OPEN WEDNESDAYS

Every Wednesday throughout August,  
11.00am and 1.00pm

Belmont throws its doors open on the five Wednesdays in August, for the first time. There will be guided tours at 11.00am and 1.00pm on each Wednesday of the month. A light lunch and afternoon tea is available, please visit our website or phone for more details. House tours (to include gardens):- Adult £8.00, Concession £7.00 and Children £5.00

## CORONATION ROBES

To celebrate this special Diamond Jubilee year, come and see the Harris robes on display for the first time since the family took part in the Queen's coronation. Newly conserved they can be seen in the beautiful surrounding of Belmont. Normal house tour admission applies.

Belmont House & Gardens, Throwley,  
nr Faversham, Kent ME13 0HH  
Tel: 01795 890202 www.belmont-house.org

1st Summer Fête	12 noon	Eastling School Field
4th Eastling Parish Council	6.30pm	Eastling Village Hall
4th W.I. Wine tasting	7.30pm	Stalisfield Village Hall
5th Annual Parish Meeting	7.30pm	Stalisfield Village Hall
8th Zumbathon	10am	Abbey School
5th Annual Parish Meeting	7.30pm	Stalisfield Village Hall
10th Mobile Library	10.50am	Glebe Cottages
15th KM Abseil Challenge	2pm	Leas Cliff Hall
15th Deadline for August Good News		Pinks Farm, Eastling
17th Painters Forstal W.I.	2.15pm	Champion Hall
18th Coffee Club	10.30am	Champion Hall
24th Mobile Library	10.50am	Glebe Cottages
AUGUST 1st Air Ambulance Talk	7.30pm	Stalisfield Village Hall
10th Stalisfield Olympics		Derbies Court Barn
11th Wilderness Down Open Day at Stalisfield		
25th Summer Fête		Stalisfield Green

## Deadline for the August Good News will be 15th July.

If you would like to advertise in this magazine, submit articles or stories for publication, or would like any forthcoming events publicised, send your contribution by 15th July to: Hilary Harlow, Pinks Farm, Eastling, Faversham, ME13 0BA. Tel: 01795 890338. Where possible, please submit your entry by email: goodnewsmagazine@me.com

Past and current issues of the Good News may be viewed on [www.northdowns.plus.com/goodnews](http://www.northdowns.plus.com/goodnews)



## Services in our Churches

### 1st July Trinity 4

2 Corinthians 8. 7 - end, Mark 5. 21 - end  
 Eastling 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 Eastling 10 am Holy Communion (CW)  
 Otterden 3 pm Evening Prayer

### 8th July Trinity 5

2 Corinthians 12. 2 - 10, Mark 6. 1 - 13  
 Eastling 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 Throwley 9.30 am Holy Communion (CW)  
 Stalisfield 10 am Holy Communion (CW)

### 15th July Trinity 6

Ephesians 1. 3 - 14, Mark 6. 14 - 29  
 Eastling 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 Stalisfield 10 am Morning Prayer (BCP)  
 Eastling 10 am Morning Prayer (BCP)

### 22nd July Trinity 7

Ephesians 2. 11 - end, Mark 6. 30 - 34, 53 - end  
 Eastling 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 Throwley 9.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 Stalisfield 10 am Holy Communion (CW)

### 29th July Trinity 8

Ephesians 3. 14 - end, John 6. 1 - 21  
 Eastling 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 Eastling 10 am Benefice Service

### 5th August Trinity 9

Ephesians 4. 1 - 16, John 6. 24 - 35  
 Eastling 8 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
 Eastling 10 am Holy Communion (CW)  
 Otterden 3 pm Evening Prayer

(BCP) Service taken from the Book of Common Prayer, 1662.  
 (CW) Service follows Common Worship Liturgy, 2000.

Priest in Charge	Vacant	
Non Stipendiary Minister with Permission To Officiate	Reverend Angela Cheeseman (01795 892124) New House Farm, Eastling ME13 0BN	
Reader	Norman Fowler (01795 890412) 4 Meesons Close, Eastling	
Reader	Hugh Perks (01795 890603) Weald Cottage, Eastling	
<b>Churchwardens</b>		
Eastling	Steve Youle (01795 890368) Audrey Smith (01795 890469)	
Parish Administrator	Janet Payne (01795 890487) E mail: eastlingchurch@gmail.com	
<b>Stalisfield with Otterden</b>		
	Jean West (01233 712270) Gillian Wallace (01233 714904) Martin Beckenham (01795 892079)	
Parish Administrator	Sheila Moger (01233 713212) E mail samhawksnest@aol.com	
Throwley	Barbara Elliott (01795 890020) Maggie Scutt (01795 890312)	

### From the Registers

#### Baptisms

James Cameron Wallace  
 Adam George Wallace  
 27th May 2012 at Stalisfield

### Midweek Groups

Tuesdays: monthly Study Group - no meeting till September  
 Tuesdays: weekly Study Group 7.30pm Pinks Farm  
 Thursdays: weekly Prayer Group 10.30am Pinks Farm

*You will be welcome at any of our groups.*

## Looking and Thinking

by Audrey Keen

As I lean on the five barred gate that looks onto the grass meadow, I think how it once was. This place buzzed with life but even nature has changed. Blackbirds and thrushes would nest in the thick covering and explore the leafy lime trees which made shapes on a misty horizon, pointing at the moving cloud. Sparrows would throw themselves over an empty field where tiny heartsease brightened the crop edge. Somehow the lushness and density has gone. Everything is fast, fast. But one thing does not change. When the



summer hay is cut it has a scent all of its own. A summer perfume, warm, clean, bright, pure, and today it smells wonderful, like marzipan. -

*I long to smell the hay  
 Piled high on the summer meadow,  
 I long to feel the sun  
 Spilt from a July sky.  
 I crave the heavenly odours  
 Of flowers on the summer air,  
 And the caressing murmur of  
 The birds that fly.  
 I sleep; and yet I see  
 The buttercups of brilliant yellow  
 And capture in my idyll  
 The dainty white day's eye,  
 I watch the heat waves crinkle  
 Over rides and cornfields splendour,  
 And windblown leaves that play  
 Before they die. A/K*

## Otterden W.I.

What a wonderful turn out we had for our quiz evening. A big thank you goes to Julie Murray for organising the event, and once again many thanks to all who went out of their way to stay behind and clean up the hall. This is always much appreciated. On 4th of July we are holding a wine tasting evening with Andrew Higgs. Guests are more than welcome, cost is £5 each which includes all refreshments. If interested please contact Kim Curtis 01795 890691 so we have an idea how many to cater for. (should be fun - hic!) Also, on the 1st of August we would like you all to join us for the Kent Air Ambulance talk. This local emergency service is entirely dependent on voluntary fund-raising. All events held in Stalisfield hall 7.30pm. If you would like to join us as a guest or become a member, please contact Kim Curtis or myself. Have a good month, and let's hope the sun shines soon. Carol Morris Otterden WI publicity.

## Gwen Sharpin.

*The Otterden W.I. would like to pay tribute to one of it's members, Gwen, who recently passed away. She was a valued member and always so supportive in everything we did. She will be very sadly missed by us all. Kim Curtis.*

### The Painters Forstal COFFEE CLUB

The next coffee club will be on 18th July in Whitehill Chapel, 10.30am - 12pm. All welcome.



### Painters Forstal with Ospringe W.I.

Tuesday 17th July  
 2.15pm in the Champion Hall  
 Mrs J. Saunders will give a talk on *The history of MacMillan Nursing Competition: A posy for an invalid.*  
 New members welcome, call Bobbie on 532756

## LEIGH MILES DANCE & FITNESS



**Eastling Village Hall**  
**WEDNESDAYS**  
 7.00pm ZUMBA®

**THURSDAYS**  
 9.15am FITNESS PILATES

OTHER VENUES  
 DAY & EVENING CLASSES  
**TEYNHAM FAVERSHAM**  
 FOR DETAILS CONTACT  
**www.milesdanceandfitness.com**  
 leigh.fitness@btinternet.com  
 01795 890149 or 07873 431952

**EASTLING VILLAGE HALL**  
 To book ring Julia Bailey  
 on 01795 890746



A beautiful hall in a lovely village location for your wedding, club, sports or meetings. The large hall has pretty grounds, car parking, meeting rooms and fully equipped facilities for professional or self-catering occasions.

## Aggies Homecare Services

House, Dog and Horse sitting, Dog Walking and Domestic Cleaning. Reasonable rates, reference available. Tailor made to each individual needs. Contact Toni on 07808 020761 or aggiedog@o2.co.uk

## Stalisfield Higher Life

KM Abseil Challenge

Our determined daring duo are on course to produce a 3D performance in Folkestone when they abseil from the roof of the Leas Cliff Hall on Sunday 15th July 2012. This will be a historic first for Stalisfield and probably for Kent in that the two ladies chairing both the Parish Council and the Village Hall Trust risk life and limb together, to raise sponsorship monies for a charitable cause. The proceeds will help to swell the Village Hall rebuild fund. All we need you to do to guarantee the success of this heroic event is to sponsor the abseiling heroines. You can do this online at <https://mydonate.bt.com/events/stalisfield> or by filling in a sponsorship form obtainable from Tracey at Flint Barn, Redborough Farm, Stalisfield, ME13 0HX, telephone (01795) 890517 or from Roy on (01233) 712893. Cheques should be made out to The Stalisfield Village Hall Trust and delivered or mailed to Tracey. To witness the daring deed, come to Folkestone on the day between 2pm and 3pm. Don't forget your camera.

## FRIENDS OF EASTLING SCHOOL

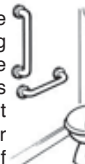
Make a note to come along the Eastling School Summer Fete on Sunday 1st July from 12noon to 3pm. Lots of great attractions and arena events plus the opportunity to buy raffle tickets for the Grand Draw. The End of Term Social will be on Thursday 19th July 6pm - 8.30pm; details will be sent home with the children. Jill Seaman 01795 890252

## Graveney Ukulele Club

Meeting at the Four Horseshoes, Graveney on 1st and 3rd Thursdays every month. Folk are invited to take along their uke and learn to play in a friendly atmosphere. 7pm for 7.15pm start for beginners, 8.15pm for club night. Contact Keith on 01795 530854 for more information.

## Don't be overcharged!

Marisa Griffiths from the *Staying Put* housing services unit at Swale Borough Council, advises that they are still able to fit grab rails for older or disabled residents of Swale for just £5 each. Tel: 01795 417131





# DIAMOND CELEBRATIONS

## Stalisfield Diamond Jubilee Party

Despite discouraging weather a lively crowd celebrated the Jubilee on the Green. Festivities started with a keenly contested historic fancy dress competition which established Rex and Kitty Baker as king and queen of Stalisfield crowned with due ceremony by a passable imitation of Dr. Rowan Williams.

The food tent provided ample fare and the hog roast was a huge success thanks

to sterling work by Phil Thorpe in roasting and carving, assisted by Robin Vaughan on the serving front. As dusk fell Richard Baker demonstrated his bonfire skills when his painstakingly constructed masterpiece roared into life to the delight of the onlookers.

We have to thank many people for the success of the day. Thanks are due to the organizing committee, to those who happily loaned their marquees, tents and canopies and to the unsung helpers who

set-up the Green for a lively day. We thank the Worldly Savages for their musical contribution to the festivities and also Alan and Maggie Greenwood for providing the PA system and musical accompaniment to the Stonefield Morris Dancers as well as two marquees. We are grateful to The Plough for the use of the field for the

Beacon Fire. Finally we thank Lisa and Robin Vaughan for generously providing the hog and we simultaneously congratulate everyone for providing such excellent fare-to-share.

Although the event was essentially a free-of-charge occasion, goodwill contributions raised a welcome £281 to be added to the Hall rebuild fund.

Roy Okell



### Thank You for the Jubilee Party!

A huge thank you to all who were involved in the organisation of the great Jubilee Celebrations in Stalisfield, and to all those who helped out and took part on the day.

It was a fabulous evening from start to finish, and it's obvious that a lot of people had worked really hard to pull it all together. Thank you from the whole village!



### Throwley Diamond Jubilee Party on Friday 1st June 2012

By Peter Coulson

Like many of its sister villages, Throwley has lost its shops, school and pub and so become dependent on its Fete and other local gatherings to preserve a community spirit. The most recent of these was the "Street Party" for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on the village forstal for which we were able to sell tickets at a price everyone could afford, thanks to the large subsidy from the Parish Council chaired by Roger Scutt and additional marquee sponsorship from Cllr. Colin Prescott, our guest, from Swale Borough Council. Ela Jastrzebska was asked to organize the event, centred round a meal of hog roast and strawberries. She was delighted by the overwhelming wave of support she has received from her working parties of so many of the capable people who live in the village. The two hundred who attended were housed in three connected marquees, raised by willing

villagers. Three of the seven tables were named after our longest reigning monarchs (the Queen herself, Queen Victoria and George III) and four after those with local connections (Stephen, Henry IV, Henry VIII and Elizabeth I). *Applause Outdoors 2012* provided a running entertainment in the form of *Accidental Collective*. More

serious fare came from Sir Ronald McIntosh's "Memories of the Queen's Accession and Coronation 60 Years Ago" and John Owen's talk on "Throwley Jubilees in the Past". There were tables displaying interesting exhibits including the fabric from the Coronation 60 years ago and the Throwley jubilee mugs ordered by the villagers. Laurie Evanson-Goddard was the Master of Ceremonies.

Background music from all sixty years of the Queen's reign was played. After the symbolic cutting of the Jubilee Cup-Cakes the party were exhilarated enough to sing along and continue singing for some closing Last-Night-of-the-Proms patriotism and three verses of the National Anthem. The flag was then lowered at about 9 pm on the village's specially provided new flag pole and the unofficial part of the evening began. This continued late into the night and seems to be still continuing because of the unusually warm sense of community the celebration has generated among its organisers and guests. The Queen has been good for Throwley.



### Throwley Fête

Thank you to all who supported us. Photo is of Peter Glass and Ray Dennis who raised £280 on the bottle stall.

## OTTERDEN DIAMOND JUBILEE PICNIC

Monday 4th June, like most of Southern England, dawned dull and drizzly. Scouting parties were sent to check out conditions in Otterden Park, online weather forecasts were consulted and an inside venue at Oak Farm was made ready by the Baker & Linch brigade just in case but all was well.

Our Annual Otterden Picnic began 23 years ago by Dorothy Murray, then revived 7 years ago and extra special this year with the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Julie and David Murray once again kindly made Otterden Park available. By noon two marquees had been set up (grateful thanks to the Linch family and John Payne for providing them and to the chaps who set them up). By 1pm there was a steady stream of picnickers with hampers, bags, rugs, tables, chairs & brollies. Lots of bunting and Union flags; masses of red, white and blue - not only on the tables but clothes too; special mention to Raghu Gaid who sported a fantastic red, white and blue Jester's hat and Union flag tabard. Carol and Sabrina made scrumptious and very patriotic cup cakes (enough for all the youngsters and the more mature too). Chris provided delicious strawberries. The beautiful and

mouth watering Union flag cake also made by Sabrina looked too good to cut but, of course, we just had to!!!

The sun came out; rounders and cricket were set up; face painting produced some fierce and pretty faces and a good feeling of bonhomie from the Otterden community.



The highlight of the day was the planting of a sapling oak in Otterden Chapel grounds. The oak had been lovingly grown from an acorn by Dorothy and Stuart Murray 5 years ago. Around 3pm we all walked through the peaceful grounds of the Otterden Chapel where Dorothy and her grandson Matthew carefully planted the sapling in a spot set out by David Merrifield. Eric Baker then set off a terrific rocket and we all gave three great cheers for Her Majesty the Queen. As the oak grows and matures it will serve as a reminder of what has gone on before in Otterden and hope for to what is to come. Dorothy is arranging for a commemorative plaque at the base of the tree. All in all a very happy time was had by one and all.

A huge thanks to everyone involved in making the event happen and also to all the neighbours, friends and families who made it so special.

### A big 'Thank You'

goes to Gill Linch and Julia Miller for organising the Otterden picnic. Despite the unpromising weather, the Otterden community showed their good old English spirit by celebrating the Jubilee in its own unique way.



Best dressed in the Eastling children's parade were Ryan Ramshaw and Octavia Ostle.

### Eastling Diamond Jubilee Tea Party

A big thank you to everyone who helped to make the Eastling Diamond Jubilee tea party such a great success- the party looked beautiful with all the festive bunting and decorations, the food was delicious, the children's parade was a spectacle and the Jubilee mugs, donated by the Village Hall Committee, provided a lasting memory of the day for the children of Eastling.

Bay Lees



### Acorn to Oak

While visiting Wakehurst Place gardens five years ago, we gathered a few acorns, later planting them into pots. After a year or two one had grown into a lovely tree. What better occasion than the Queen's Diamond Jubilee to plant it out.

This took place during the Otterden Jubilee Picnic. It was planted in Otterden churchyard by our grandson, Matthew.

Stuart and Dorothy Murray.