

Good News Parish Magazine

High Downs
Parish

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



**JUNE
2023**

- 3rd Throwley Fete 1pm - 5pm
Pub & live music 6pm - 11.30pm
Throwley Forstal Green
- 4th Newnham Open Gardens
Newnham Village 1 - 6pm
- 4th NGS Open Garden 12 - 5pm
Belmont House & Gardens
- 7th Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 11th North Downs Walk
Harrietsham Village Hall
- 14th Arts Society lecture, Egerton
Millennium Hall, Egerton 2.30pm
- 14th Stalisfield Youth - Nail Spa & Bake Off
Stalisfield Village Hall 7- 8.30pm
- 15th Archdeacon's Visitation
Eastling Church 7.30pm
- 20th Copy Deadline for July Good News
goodnewsmagazine@me.com
- 22nd Arts Society lecture, Faversham
Alexander Centre 11am
- 23rd Eat, Pray, Walk
Doddington Church 1.30pm
- 28th Stalisfield Youth - Chill Zone
Stalisfield Village Hall 7-8.30pm
- 30th - 1st July Stalisfield Youth
Campout in Teynham Church Field

JULY

- 4th Otterden & Stalisfield W.I. afternoon
outing to Donderry Nurseries
- 12th Stalisfield Youth - Sports Activities
Stalisfield Village Hall 7-8.30pm
- 15th Family Fun Day 10am - 2pm
Teynham Church Field

SATURDAY 3RD JUNE

THROWLEY FETE

1PM TO 5PM

**STALLS, SNOAD FARM BBQ
THE WINDMILL PUB
FAMILY FUN ACTIVITIES
CREAM TEAS & MUCH MORE**

6PM TO 11.30PM

**BAR, LIVE MUSIC:
UNDER THE WOOD
CORINNE'S CREATIVE KITCHEN**



"It was the best we could do whilst the churchbells are being replaced – and O Sole Mio is quite a nice tune."



Throwley Fete

Saturday, 3rd June 2023

1pm – 5pm

Cream teas & cakes,
Snoad Farm BBQ,
Windmill 'pub',
family fun activities,
dog show and
traditional fete stalls

6pm – 11.30pm

Pub & live music from
Under the Wood

Corinne's Creative Kitchen

NEWNHAM OPEN GARDENS

**Sunday 4th June
1 pm to 6 pm**

Come and enjoy an afternoon at one of
Kent's favourite Open Gardens days

*Ploughman's lunches and plant stall at
Tawnyhill Kennels from 12 noon**

- Afternoon teas from 2 pm •
- Flowers in the church •
- Pimm's and local beers •
- NGS gardens included •

Lowering the Tone

Singing live on the village green at 2.30 pm

† Tawnyhill Kennels - 2017 Gardeners' World best wildlife garden runner up
Homestall Road ME9 0HF • Parking available • www.tawnyhillboardingkennels.co.uk

Entrance by programme, obtainable at any of the open gardens

Adults £5, accompanied children free

Limited parking at Sharsted Playing Field, ME9 0LQ

Proceeds to Newnham Church
Registered Charity No. 1162554

bruce.leckie@live.co.uk for more information

**KINGSDOWN-CREEKSIDE
HIGH DOWNS BENEFICE**

FAMILY FUN DAY

A special event for the whole family to
enjoy!

Saturday 15th July
10.00am - 2.00pm
Teynham Church Field

Celebrate Summer with fun
games, good food, and great
company!

SAVE THE DATE

Last year we had such a fun day
with people from all communities
across the Benefice that we thought
we should do it all over again.

This is a time for laughter and fun,
games and entertainment, cream
teas and cake, all the usual fun of
the fair, but in a relaxed and
welcoming way. Something for all
the family, whatever age.

Come and join us.

SATURDAY 15th JULY

10.00am to 2.00pm

If you'd like to get involved in the set
up - baking a cake to share, setting
up gazebos, being sponged in the
stocks, we'd love to hear from you.

Please contact caroline.turvey@kc-hd.org.uk

June Message

'All the earth is sacred, with every step you take; All the air is sacred with every breath you take; You know it, the people we are one.'

...so goes the text of a native American chant-song that has been a great favourite of various choirs and singing groups that I have worked with over the years. The reason for its popularity is partly in its simple melody and earthy rhythms, but mainly I think for the words which seem to resonate with everyone who sings them.

In the British Isles the spiritual connection with the natural world has never waned particularly for Celtic Christians, whose spirituality was heavily influenced by the Desert Fathers and Mothers. It was the 4th century Desert Father Ephraim who spoke of two books of God: the book of scripture and the book of creation. Celtic Christians took this idea deep into their hearts and Columbanus, a 6th century Irish monk who was famous for his love and connection with creation said *'If you want to*

understand the Creator, you must first understand His creation'. Columbanus was echoing the words of the Apostle Paul from the Bible who wrote *'For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature.'*
Romans 1:20

We are blessed to live within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, so our connection with nature is easy to make. But even if you live in the midst of a great city it is still possible to see some sign of creation, even if it is just the sky, an odd bird or a plant on our windowsill. We are surrounded all the time by God's continual work of creation, where there is new life emerging all around us all the time. We can often feel closer to God when surrounded by the natural world and many people describe 'transcendent moments' in nature when they feel deeply connected to something bigger than themselves.

'We humans have been given custody of the earth. Perhaps if we were a little more connected to the spirituality of the universe we would be more connected to the physicality of the earth. Or perhaps it's the other way round.' David Cole, *Celtic Christian Spirituality*.

Our monthly Eat.Pray.Walk. that meets every 4th Friday at Doddington Church car park at 1.30 is one opportunity to join in celebrating and discovering our God through His creation. Perhaps we can find other ways too!

With love & light
Lissie

CONFIRMATION SERVICE with Bishop Rose

There will be a confirmation service in
Lynsted Church on
Sunday 4th June at 6:30pm

If you would like to be confirmed, then please speak to one of the clergy team, if you have not previously done so.

The Alpha course is a good way to prepare for confirmation.

There will be an alternative offered to younger people.

Prayer Pointers



Mondays - Pray for the week ahead, that we may be guided by the Holy Spirit.

Tuesdays - Give thanks for our freedom and pray for those living in war torn countries.

Wednesdays - Pray for all those needing to use food banks and give thanks for all who volunteer to help.

Thursdays - Give thanks for those involved in Youth Work in our parishes and pray for the young people in their charge.

Fridays - Pray for all whose jobs are lost through cuts in public spending.

Saturdays - Give thanks for those who teach and pray for students taking exams this month.

Sundays - Praise God for all who turn to Christ and pray for those being Confirmed this month.



Eastling
Church

Flower Rota

4th & 11th June - Gemma

18th - Dorothy

25th - Janet

2nd July - Janet & Susie

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



Celebration fit for a King!

Stalisfield knows how to put on a party and party they did at the Coronation Fare to Share on Bank Holiday Monday. The hall was decked in red, white and blue, as were most villagers, the King was toasted in Prosecco followed by lusty singing of the National Anthem.

With true community spirit, all ages, residents old and new - with family and friends - turned out bringing delicious food to share. With beautiful 'Coronation Cakes' and plenty of bubbly (along with a homemade gin machine!) a fabulous afternoon was had by all.

Thanks go to all who came and shared and particularly those who helped set up and clear.



Eastling Parish Council

The village celebration for the Coronation was a resounding success and enjoyed by all who attended. The raffle raised £355 and this will be given to the Swale Food Bank. The Council would like to thank all the volunteers who worked so hard on the day giving everyone special memories of the historic occasion.

The celebration was organised by the Parish Council and received extra funding from a National Lottery grant.



Tea and Flowers for the King's Coronation

Eastling Church was bursting with floral scents from the wonderful arrangements produced by church members to honour the Coronation of King Charles III.

Around 50 people came on Sunday 7th May and enjoyed homemade teas in and around the church.

Donations were given and £140 was sent to Faversham Foodbank

Thank you to everyone who came, arranged flowers and contributed.



Otterden and Stalisfield W.I.

The AGM in May was well attended and as the existing Committee and Officers were happy to stand for another year, the business took a minimal amount of time.

After beverages and homemade cakes, we then went onto the social part of the Meeting which consisted of a Royal themed Quiz and a party game. Both brought about quite an amount of hilarity! The tickets for Sister Act at The Marlowe theatre, Canterbury were also distributed to those who reserved seats on 14th June.

Patricia Marshall from The Guide Dogs Association will be coming along to our next Meeting on Wednesday 7th June, to explain the wonderful work of their dogs. We will be starting at 19.30 at Stalisfield Village Hall if you would like to join us.

The evening of 15th June, for those who wish to attend the Godinton House 'Jazz in the Garden', can gather to enjoy the music in the wonderful garden. A trio, The

Metro Vipers, will be playing in the Walled Garden, playing Gypsy Jazz, Swing & Latin with some Rock 'n' Roll. Bring a picnic from 6 p.m. with music commencing at 7 p.m. Tickets to be purchased from Godinton House direct at £15 each.

Our next outing is reserved for the afternoon of Tuesday 4th July to Downderry Nurseries in Tonbridge. This is a specialist Lavender grower and regular exhibitor at flower shows including Chelsea and Hampton Court, gaining many awards over the years. Simon Charlesworth will be giving us a conducted tour of their collection, which includes 250 species of Lavender. This culminates with tea and cake of course and the opportunity to purchase plants and all things lavender from their shop.

Contact Helen Brookes on 07477580727 or Ellie Cameron on 01795 892016 if you would like to join our friendly group.



What's On at Belmont

National Garden Scheme Open Garden

Sunday 4th June, 12-5pm

Belmont is pleased to support the work of the National Garden Scheme. Admission £5.00, children under 16 are free of charge. All proceeds from this day will go to the NGS chosen charities.

Paintalong Event

Friday 23rd June, 11am-1pm

Come and join in this fun, sociable paintalong event! It's a step by step follow the artist teacher to a finished wall ready painting on canvas. The theme for this workshop is Sheep, Betsy McLellan style. £40.00 per person.

Wild Box Cocktail Making Class

Friday 30th June, 6.30-8.30pm

Join us for a summer evening of cocktail making in our beautiful gardens. Creating three seasonal cocktails with a Wild Box mixologist, you will explore the world of locally produced spirits, seasonal fruits and herbs to create delicious twists on classic cocktails. £45.00 per person.



Belmont House & Gardens, Throwley, Faversham, Kent ME13 0HH

www.belmont-house.org

Stalisfield Village Hall Events 2023

July 1st – TBC 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

More details on our website:

<https://>

www.stalisfieldvillagehall.co.uk

Jane Austen's Emma at Mount Ephraim, Faversham

Join the critically-acclaimed Pantaloons Theatre Company for a riotous Regency rom-com in the open-air!

Meet misguided matchmaker Emma as she tries to play Cupid in this hilarious yet faithful new adaptation of Jane Austen's satirical story
Sunday 25th June, 5pm.

Tickets from <https://allevents.in/faversham>

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- Weddings



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Save the date – Sunday 13th August 2023
Join us to celebrate our 10th anniversary in
Stalisfield
Details to follow but bands are already
booked, tickets available soon



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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

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Sunday Services

4th June Trinity Sunday

2 Corinthians 13. 11 - end, Matthew 28. 16 - 20

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Norton 10.30am Morning Worship

Lynsted 6.30pm Confirmation Service

11th June Trinity 1

Romans 4. 13 - 25, Matthew 9. 9 - 13, 18 - 26

Eastling 9am Holy Communion BCP

Throwley 10.30am Morning Prayer

Lynsted 10.30am All Together Now

Thursday 15th June

Eastling 7.30pm Archdeacon's Visitation

18th June Trinity 2

Romans 5. 1 - 8, Matthew 9. 35 - 10. 23

Newnham 9am Holy Communion BCP

Eastling 10.30am Morning Worship

25th June Trinity 3

Romans 6. 1b - 11, Matthew 10. 24 - 39

Throwley 10.30am Holy Communion

Oare 10.30 am Morning Worship

2nd July Trinity 4

Romans 6. 12 - 23, Matthew 10. 40 - 42

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

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

From The Registers

Wedding

Kirsty Stevens and Mark Stevens
13th May 2023 at Eastling

CONTACT THE GOOD NEWS EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like to submit articles, or to advertise in the July 2023 magazine, send your submission by 20th June 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

Starting at Doddington Church Car Park at 1.30pm
STOP TO BREATHE
A new way to encounter the living God
ALL WELCOME

January 27th
February 24th
March 24th
April 28th
May 26th
June 23rd

EVERY fourth Friday of the month
Eat Pray Walk Celebrating God in Creation

News from Citizens Advice Swale

citizens
advice

Volunteers make up around 75% of our workforce. We wouldn't be able to provide such a vital free advice service without them. Our volunteers range from young to retired, university students, part-time workers and jobseekers.

This Volunteers' Week (1-7 June) we'll be celebrating our amazing volunteers and the difference they make to people in our community. Our volunteers are being treated to a picnic lunch, thanks to funding from our Trustees, to show how much they're appreciated by the whole team.

Volunteering with us has proven to be a rewarding experience with many citing 'making a difference', 'boosting confidence', 'meeting new people' and 'improving job prospects' as benefits. There are a number of volunteer roles including advisers, campaigners, and trustees. Find out more about the roles and take our two minute online quiz to find out which area of volunteering you might be interested in - go to www.bit.ly/42MOKuB

To apply, please complete the online application form at www.citizensadvice.org.uk/volunteer-application-form or call us on 01795 417666 to have an application form posted to you. Full training is provided and travel expenses are reimbursed.

For general advice, or to contact our specialist advisers, please email us at www.citizensadvice.org.uk/email-general-advice or call Adviceline on freephone 0808 278 7979. To request a call back from our debt team please visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt 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.

The Arts Society Faversham



We run regular monthly lectures on the fourth Thursday at the Alexander Centre, Faversham. Come along to a lecture as a guest (£5 fee) or join for a year's lectures.

Our next lecture is on Thursday 22 June 2023 at 11.00am on "Delacroix Liberty" by Daphne Lawson.

Coffee and biscuits will be served from 10.20am

Delacroix wrote to his brother: "if I have not fought for the country, at least I will paint for her." This lecture explores one painting, Liberty Leading the People, placing it at the heart of French Romanticism and looks at its powerful role in the aftermath of the July Revolution and its mixed critical reception. It also covers the historical background and the influences that led to the creation of Liberty and her compatriots on the barricades and asks why this icon of French revolutionary fervour continues to exert its fascination today.

Biography

Daphne Lawson has an MA by Research and Thesis from the University of Canterbury on Degas's Public and Private Spectacle and a BA in Art History from London University. Her first career was as an actress, trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama and worked in theatre, film and television until her thirties.

Further information from info@theartsocietyfaversham.org.uk

THE ARTS SOCIETY EGERTON



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

Our next lecture in the Egerton Millennium Hall will be: Wednesday 14th June at 2.30pm

In the second half of the C19 an extraordinary group of purpose-built studio-houses were built on the edge of London's Holland Park. At their centre was the house built by Frederic Leighton from the mid-1860s. With its vast studio and exotic Arab Hall it provided an inspiration to other artists who commissioned houses of their own. Combining domestic accommodation with studio space and space in which to entertain, these houses provide fascinating insights into the wealth, status and taste of successful artists of the period. The lecture explores the houses of the Holland Park Circle to determine why these artists invested so much in the creation of their homes and the uses they then put them to.

Our lecturer, Daniel Robbins, is Senior Curator, Museums, with the London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, responsible for 2 of London's most significant house museums, Leighton House and 18 Stafford Terrace.

Visitors are always very welcome at £6, refunded if you join. For further information please contact Christine Willis, our Membership Secretary via cmwillis75@gmail.com or 01233 756377.

This lecture will be preceded at 2.00 p.m. by the A.G.M. for members of the Arts Society Egerton

See also our website

www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk

Songs of Praise Recording

BBC's Songs of Praise in Canterbury Cathedral Nave

Monday 12 June 2023, 18.30-21:45

Free of charge.

Congregational singing and Cathedral Choir pieces will be recorded for use in various future Songs of Praise programmes.

To book your place email SOPcongregations@afantimedia.tv with your name, contact phone number and the number of tickets you'd like.

Please include 'Songs of Praise Canterbury' in your subject header.

Alternatively, call the production company on 07734 030 888.



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Eastling Primary School

We enjoyed our first whole school Bluebell Walk on Friday 28th April. The younger children went for a shorter walk before enjoying den building whilst the juniors ventured further afield exploring the public footpaths of Eastling.

On Wednesday 26th April Birch class visited Willesborough Windmill linked to their DT (Design and Technology) project on windmills. The children explored the windmill and some of them were able to overcome their fear of heights when climbing up the steep wooden steps. Heart and Soil came into school on Wednesday 3rd May to work with years 1-3 to build wormeries and learn about the importance of worms for the environment. Years 3 and 4 went to Living Land at Detling Showground on Thursday 4th May. This is an annual event for schools and the children loved being part of it.

The school celebrated the coronation of King Charles III on Friday 5th May with a picnic on the field. The event was very well attended and each class shared something with the parents including country dancing and singing. On Monday 15th May and Thursday 18th May KS1 and KS2 visited Canterbury Cathedral. The Bunce Trust kindly funded these visits and they focused on pilgrimages and learning about the different parts of the Cathedral building.

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, Head Teacher

Stalisfield Youth Group Summer Programme



We are having all the usual things but thought we'd have some themes over the Summer term



14th June – Nail Spa & bring-a-cake Bake-Off competition

28th June – Chill zone

Saturday 30th June – Sunday 1st July – Campout Teynham church field

12th July – Sports activities

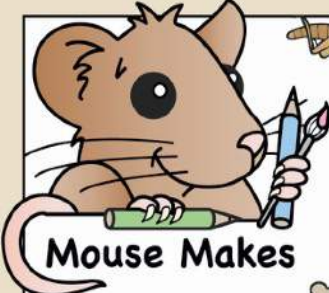
Saturday 15th July – Benefice Fun Day 10-2 & Newnham Village Fete 1-4

26th July – Summer BBQ and Party evening

Stalisfield Youth Group is free to all 11-18y olds on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month 7-8.30pm at Stalisfield Village Hall. We have table tennis, craft, games, summer outdoor sports equipment, music, Wii and Xbox gaming, tuck shop and free cake!

We also welcome any Year 6 pupils during this Summer term so you can meet up with friends out of school and then continue to meet here with them next year if perhaps you go to different secondary schools

Any questions please contact Catherine 07929928046



The Lord said to Moses,
"Your brother Aaron shall tell Pharaoh to let the people of Israel go out of his land... The Egyptians shall know that I AM the Lord when I stretch out my hand against Egypt..."
As Pharaoh's heart was hardened against the Israelites, God sent ten plagues upon him...

Mouse Makes

<p>1 Water turns to Blood Which water turned to blood? <i>Read - Exodus 7:19</i></p>	<p>6 A Break out of Boils What did Moses throw into the air before boils appeared on people and animals? <i>Read - Exodus 9:10</i></p>	<p>7 A Rain of Hail What also rained down with the hail? Where did it not hail? <i>Read - Exodus 9:24-26</i></p>
<p>2 A Swarm of Frogs In which places were the frogs found? <i>Read - Exodus 8:3-4</i></p>	<p>8 A Swarm of Locusts Where did the wind come from that brought the locusts to the land? <i>Read - Exodus 10:13</i></p>	<p>9 Darkness over the Land How many days did it remain dark? <i>Read - Exodus 10:21-22</i></p>
<p>3 A Plague of Gnats When Aaron struck his staff on the ground what became Gnats? <i>Read - Exodus 8:16-17</i></p>	<p>10 Death of the Firstborn At what time would the firstborn in the land die? <i>Read - Exodus 11:4-6</i></p>	
<p>4 Swarms of Flies In which land were the flies not be found? <i>Read - Exodus 8:22</i></p>		
<p>5 Death of Animals Which animals that belonged to the Egyptians died? <i>Read - Exodus 9:2</i></p>		

GOD • PLAGUES • MOSES • AARON
WATER • BLOOD • STAFF • RIVER • NILE • FISH
FROGS • SWARM • GNATS • DUST • FLIES
GROUND • DEATH • ANIMALS • SOOT
BOILS • PEOPLE • HAIL • THUNDER • FIRE
MAN • BEAST • LOCUSTS • WIND • LAND
DARKNESS • FIRSTBORN • MIDNIGHT

Refugee Week, 23rd – 27th June

How are the refugees who have come to the UK getting along?

Refugee Week, a UK-wide annual festival which celebrates the contributions and resilience of refugees, provides a programme of arts, cultural, educational and media events, though which refugees can find their voice in the UK.

This year the refugees have chosen to share their experiences on the theme of 'what compassion looks like in action'.

Hanna from Ukraine tells her story:

We are all very traumatised, even if it doesn't show. Every day we read news about our country, talk with relatives there. We are also trying to work, study English, manage our home, raise children, and understand the UK culture. People in Ukraine are constantly in danger. Those who have left feel guilty. It tires and exhausts.

Life has changed for everyone; the whole world feels the worsening economic situation due to the war, yet you in the UK continue to support us. It's incredible. My heart is torn in half. I am afraid for everyone who stayed in Ukraine. I am angry with Russia for everything she is doing. My anger will pass. What remains unchanged is a feeling of deepest gratitude to the British for opening their hearts and families to us. Your kindness and mercy help us not to despair. We understand that without you, we would not exist long ago. Perhaps this is how God created people.

Canterbury resident Richard Llewellyn writes of his experience:

I had volunteered to be a 'mentor' to a young man from Chad, so two years ago I met Adam from Chad, to help him learn English. Since then we have tried to meet weekly for about an hour simply to have a conversation about whatever seems appropriate at the time.

I am not able to tell you anything about how, why, and when Adam became a refugee and arrived in England. In the training I

received I was told never to ask, but only to wait until the refugee wants to tell his or her story. I am still waiting.

I know Adam wants to stay here, and train as a plumber. I also discovered that he is a devout Muslim, saying his prayers five times a day and going to the mosque on Friday. I told him that I am a committed Christian and therefore we have something very important in common, in that we have put our trust in the same God – the only God. With a puzzled expression he asks me, "Then what about Jesus?" I reply that for Muslims Jesus is a Prophet, and for Christians something more than a Prophet, but that we both worship the same God. I don't think that he was entirely convinced but, for all our differences, we have remained good friends.

Sahed, 18 last month, has been living in a small English town for a year, after she and her family fled Jordan.

I came here with my parents and my two brothers and little sister, and I arrived knowing only 'Hi' and 'How are you' in English. So I set myself the goal of learning the language online, going to college and volunteering at the local library. Now I am virtually fluent, which means that I am the only one to act as interpreter for my family. It's vital, as my 20-year-old brother has a severe mental health illness, which means frequent hospital admissions. Some of our neighbours, alarmed at the noise my brother was making during an episode, called the police. They were actually very kind and just wanted to make sure everyone was alright; in fact all our neighbours are kind and welcoming - except one who is always very rude. I want to get my GCSEs, and then go to University - maybe York or Manchester. I want to study business management.

Please pray for these refugees, and others, and for those who, in Christ's name, are providing sanctuary.

For more on Refugee Week, please go to: <https://refugeeweek.org.uk>



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

Sponsored Walk for Cancer Research UK and your own selected charities

The Rotary Club of the Weald of Kent are running our annual North Downs Walk on **Sunday 11th June**, starting at Harrietsham Village Hall.

Three to suit walkers of all levels of fitness. The 1 mile and 3 mile routes are fairly flat; the 6 mile and 9 mile routes have stunning views across the Weald. Water stations, including dog bowls (this is a dog-friendly event) and toilets en-route.

Walkers can start between 8am and 11am and be back in time for lunch at Harrietsham, all walkers are given a free ploughman's lunch, strawberries and cream, and entertainment by local musicians. Make a day of it and raise money for your favourite cause or charity.

Half of your sponsorship money will be donated by Rotary to Cancer Research UK. The other half to your selected cause or charity.

Many thanks to our event sponsors, Family Funeral Service, every penny raised in sponsorship will go to the charities.

Go to www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk to download registration forms, route maps and event posters, or to learn more about Rotary. For further details contact Chas, our walk committee chairman on 07831 449216 or at walkline@wealdofkentrotary.org.uk

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Faversham Open Gardens and Garden Market

Sunday 25th June 2023 10.00am to 5.00pm (market to 4.00pm)

Come and join us for a wonderful day out in Faversham visiting a variety of private and community gardens and allotments.

Our historic Market Place in the centre of the town will host the popular and bigger than ever Garden Market selling plants, gardenalia and all kinds of other garden-related items.

Some of the open gardens will serve teas and there are plenty of pubs, cafes and restaurants open across the town. The event is organised in aid of the Faversham Society.

Entry by brochure to all gardens £6.00 per adult (£10.00 for two). Children under 12 go free.

Garden entry brochures are available from the Visitor Information Centre, 12 Market Place. Or on the day from our Market stall in Market Place.

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Village Warden 07794 010 394
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Police 101 Emergency 999

I have received a polite request from the residents of Tong Lane that, if at all possible, dog walkers would keep their dogs on a lead until they are well passed the end house. It seems that some distress has been caused to the cats that dwell along there, also to remove any dog fouling as this area is a public footpath.

As has probably been seen and heard on tv and radio, dog attacks and worrying of farm animals has increased considerably. Please remember the country code and keep your dog on a lead in the vicinity of farm animals.

With summer here please take extra care driving along the country lanes as the vegetation has grown up making the roads even smaller in width.

Some people are still driving too fast through the village although those with noisy exhausts, cars and motorbikes sound like they are going faster than they really are, please be mindful of residents living beside the road.

Have a good month
Take Care, Alan

KCC Councillor's Report Proposed Closure of Faversham Household Waste Recycling Centre

I have received an unprecedented number of emails about KCC's proposals to close the HWRC site at Salters Lane in Faversham. It's absolutely shocking that they are considering closing this site, and although there is a consultation coming, it feels to some degree like it's a done deal, given that Faversham is closed in all three of the options currently put forward by KCC.

I have been on Radio Kent to argue against the closure and give some of the reasons why I thought it was a bad idea. Since then, I have continued to assemble arguments against the closure; Swale district already has the highest rates of fly tipping in Kent, and the closure of the Faversham site would result in tens of thousands of extra car journeys through Air Quality Management Areas, (these are areas where air quality is already poor and the local authority have put together an improvement plan). The closure of the site is also likely to result in an increase in fly tipping, in an area which is already blighted by high levels of illegal dumping of household and builder's waste.

In terms of action people can take to oppose this, the main one will be to respond to the consultation when it opens. It may be fruitless, but it will carry significantly more weight than signing a petition. The consultation is due to open in mid-July and will "provide an opportunity for alternative proposals to be put forward". I will continue to investigate viable alternative options and will also ensure as many people as possible are alerted when the consultation is open.

I will be writing to the members of KCC's Environment and Transport Committee to ask them to request that the consultation be made as open and transparent as possible. Ideally the consultation should include the background data on ALL of the Household Waste Recycling Centre sites (currently data on only 13 of the 19 sites has been shared), to allow for a greater understanding of the current situation and to also give more scope for alternative proposals to be found.

Rich Lehmann
rich.lehmann@kent.gov.uk

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Everything I need to know... I learned from Noah's Ark

1. Don't miss the boat.
2. Remember that we are all in the same boat.
3. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
4. Stay fit. When you're very old Someone may ask you to do something really big.
5. Don't listen to critics. Just get on with the job needing to be done.
6. Build your future on high ground.
7. For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
8. Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
9. When you're stressed, float awhile.
10. No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

Author unknown



The brilliant Pascal

Four hundred years ago, on 19th June 1623, Blaise Pascal was born in central France. This brilliant mathematician,

physicist, theologian and philosopher invented one of the first mechanical calculators – among many other things.

Pascal, whose mother died when he was three and who was brought up by his father, was prominent from a young age in different scientific fields – he laid the foundation for the modern theory of probabilities, created Pascal's principle of pressure, invented the hydraulic press and the syringe, and devised a primitive roulette wheel while searching for a perpetual motion machine.

He created his calculator – the Pascaline – to assist his father, then the local administrator at Rouen, in his tax assessments. It operated by counting integers and thus was in a sense the first digital calculator. At the age of 31 he had a mystical experience that he called a "night of fire", which changed his life. After that

he became involved closely with the Catholic Church (as was his similarly brilliant sister, Jacqueline) and wrote extensively on theological matters, insisting that men must be brought to God through Christ alone. His scientific training lent his Christian writing a strength of argument, and he produced many memorable quotes, such as the words he put in Jesus' mouth: "Be comforted; you would not be looking for me if you had not found me."

Pascal was never a well man, possibly suffering from coeliac disease, and died in great pain in 1662, probably from a combination of stomach and brain cancer. One of his last major achievements was introducing the first bus service to Paris, using a carriage with many seats on a fixed route at a fixed price. Whereas most buses are late, this service was before its time and closed in 1675.

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FUNDRAISE FOR KSS THIS SUMMER

Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex (KSS) delivers world-leading pre-hospital emergency care 24/7 to the 4.8 million people who live in its region – plus the many millions more who travel through this area, which has some of the busiest roads in the country. Its crews of pilots, doctors and paramedics responded to 3,224 incidents in 2022, the charity's busiest year in its 33-year history.

Each year, the charity must raise £16.6M – equivalent to £45K per day - to operate its life-saving service, with 87% of its total income raised through the generosity of its supporters. Throughout the year, KSS organises a number of different fundraising events and, this summer, there are lots of opportunities to take part and help the life-saving charity raise vital funds.

100 miles in July

Can you cover 100 miles in a month and raise money for your local air ambulance charity? You have the whole of July to complete the miles in any way you want, from roller skating to running, swimming to skipping, paddleboarding to power walking - it's up to you! Team up with family or friends and split the miles between you or complete your miles solo.

KSS Ride

Returning for its third year on Sunday 20 August, KSS Ride offers horse riders the opportunity to enjoy an eight-mile hack through the beautiful woodland and farmland of the Bilsington Priory Estate in Kent whilst raising funds. Pre-booking is required: aakss.org/kssride

Lauren Simmons, Head of Events at KSS, said: "Every pound raised by taking part in our fundraising events makes a real difference, helping us to ensure we can be there for the most critically ill patients in their hour of need. On behalf of KSS, a very big thank you to everyone who supports us. We could not do what we do without you."

For further information: aakss.org.uk

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