

Good News Parish Magazine High Downs Parish

*Serving the villages of
Eastling, Otterden,
Stalisfield and Throwley*

www.goodnews.rf.gd



MARCH 2023

- 1st Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 8th Arts Society lecture, Egerton
Millennium Hall, Egerton 2.30pm
- 8th Stalisfield Youth
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 9th Singing Kettle Song Group
Newnham Village Hall 2 - 3pm
- 9th History Society
Charing Parish Hall 7.30pm
- 10th & 11th Treasure Island Pantomime
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 12th All Together Now
Lynsted Church 10.30am
- 12th Throwley Parish Lanes Clean Up
Throwley Village Green 11.30am
- 19th Mothering Sunday Service
Stalisfield Church 10.30am
- 20th Copy Deadline for April G.News
goodnewsmagazine@me.com
- 22nd Stalisfield Youth
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 23rd Arts Society lecture, Faversham
Alexander Centre 11am
- 24th Eat, Pray, Walk
Doddington Church 1.30pm
- 29th Easter Craft Celebration
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 9pm

APRIL

- 11th Hall & Parish Council Annual Meetings
Eastling Village Hall 7.30pm
- 29th Stalisfield Bluebell Walk
Stalisfield Village Hall 10am - 2pm

MAY

- 7th Coronation Thanksgiving Service
Throwley Church

Mothering Sunday

Service at
Stalisfield Church on
19th March
at 10.30am.

Join us afterwards for
light refreshments.



Stalisfield Bluebell Walk



Saturday 29th April 2023

Starting from Stalisfield Village Hall between 10am and 2pm

Refreshments available until 3pm

£5/£2.50 Adult/Child, £12.50 / Family (Up to 3 children U16)

All proceeds to St Mary's Church, Stalisfield.

Contact Jenny King on 01795 890366

**EASTER
CRAFT
CELEBRATION**

STALISFIELD VILLAGE HALL
WEDNESDAY 29TH MARCH 7.00-9.00PM

JOIN US,
GET CREATIVE
AND HAVE
SOME FUN

KINGSDOWN & CREEKSIDE
HIGH DOWNS

Fancy a fun, sociable evening of chat, craft, all things Easter, community and learning new skills? Share in the joy of Easter.

Come and get creative with us - from making your own Easter Garden, to blowing and painting eggs - remember doing that when you were young?

This is your time to arrange that Easter tree, put the flowers together, make an Easter ring for the door. Whatever you'd like to do, bring your bits and bobs with you, share in natter, wine and nibbles with laughter.

Parents, grandparents, bring your teenagers or bring a friend for an Easter egg-stravaganza. Stalisfield Village Hall on Wednesday 29th March, 7.00 - 9.00pm.
Easter Craft Celebration | Kingsdown Creekside & High Downs (kc-hd.org.uk)

March Message

I remember being at secondary school and the head teacher reminding all the pupils that they were representatives of the school, whether playing for one of the sports teams, or out in public, perhaps travelling to and from school. We were also reminded that if our behaviour was lacking our uniforms would help identify us!

I imagine we have also been or are representatives in other ways, perhaps for our employer, our family, our village or town, and for a club or organisation we belong to.

We are now in Lent, a 40 day period of reflection and prayer when Christians remember the events leading up to and including the crucifixion of Jesus. The first day of Lent is Ash Wednesday, 22nd February this year. In the Kingsdown, Creekside and High Downs benefice we started a series of Lent sermons and studies then based upon what God is calling us to be and do. The whole series is "Called to be church" starting with "Called up", to be ambassadors of Christ. This comes from the Bible reading for that day, 2 Corinthians 5.20 "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us."

An ambassador lives in a foreign land and respects its customs and laws but will live

in a way that reflects their true home. They

will promote their home country, represent their home country and speak for it and about it. They will arrange matters on behalf of their homeland and promote peace.

One important thing to remember is that up until relatively recently ambassadors had to do their work almost completely isolated from their country and ruler. It is only since the mass adoption of the telephone that ambassadors have been able to check in constantly with their country's government to receive directions and permission to make decisions. For thousands of years before that, ambassadors lived in a foreign country, isolated except for an occasional letter or visitor from their home, conversing with foreign governments, proposing treaties, and helping further diplomatic relationships between countries. This was a huge responsibility and made it especially crucial that they understood their missions, their ruler's desires and goals, and how to achieve them.

God does not give us a script or dictate exact actions or conversations over the phone. Instead, He gives us a manual with a host of guidelines, examples, some hard-and-fast do's and don'ts, and tells us what our ultimate goal is (eternal life in His kingdom).

He does not tell us every minute step we must take to get there and every trial we'll face along the way. He gives us His laws and teachings, and then empowers us to live our lives and make our own choices by His Spirit who lives in all believers. We can go to him and ask Him questions. Sometimes we'll get an immediate answer, but more often the answer is "look at the instruction manual."

This is why we must spend time reading the bible, studying it and thinking about it, learning its nuances and connections. We must spend time in prayer with God so that the lines of communication are open and understandable. This way when a situation arises, a conversation reaches a critical point, or a decision must be made, we already have the clarity of purpose to know how to proceed. This training is especially important because not only are we currently ambassadors, but this role is preparing us for our future eternal position as priests in God's kingdom (Revelation 1.6).

Rev. Jim Pye.

**The Memorial Service
for
Rev. Penny Fenton
is on Tuesday 7th March,
1.30pm in Ospringe
Church**

Prayer Pointers

Mondays - Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us when we feel Called by God.

Tuesdays - As we receive Your forgiveness, grant us strength to forgive others.

Wednesdays - Pray for the people of all countries where war has destroyed homes and lives.

Thursdays - For the people affected by the earthquake in Turkey and Syria.

Fridays - For justice and protection for our beautiful world.

Saturdays - Give thanks for our food and pray for all living in hunger and poverty.

Sundays - Rejoice in fellowship with all who know Jesus Christ as their Lord.



**Easter Lilies in
Eastling Church
9th April 2023**

Contributions to the display of beautiful Easter Lilies in memory of loved ones will be gratefully received by Bay.

Your contribution and the names of your loved ones can be placed in the secure postbox outside The Manor or contact Bay Lees on 07922 484648.



How the Great War changed Kent

This talk considers the involvement and pivotal position of Kent in relation to the war, and the profound social changes that followed.



Speaker: Martin Watts

When: 9th March 2023

Where: Parish Hall, Station Road

Time: 7.30pm doors open

Talk starts promptly at 8pm



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www.charinghistory.co.uk



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suitable for dementia sufferers
(carers attend free of charge)

Enquiries to Lissie on 07790 287878
or email lissiebayford@gmail.com

Stalisfield Bluebell Walk

Saturday 29 April 2023

Starting from Stalisfield Village Hall
between 10.00am – 2.00pm

2 mile or 5 mile loop
£5/£2.50 per Adult/Child, £12.50 /Family
(Up to 3 children U16)

All proceeds to St Mary's Church, Stalisfield.
Contact Jenny King on 01795 890366
if any queries

Save The Date - Coronation Thanksgiving Service and Drinks on 7th May

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

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

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



SUNDAY 12TH MARCH

**THROWLEY
PARISH
LANES
CLEAN UP**

**PLEASE COME ALONG TO
THE VILLAGE GREEN AT 11.30**



The Arts Society Faversham

We run regular monthly lectures on the fourth Thursday at the Alexander Centre, Faversham. Subjects cover all aspects of the Arts in its widest sense and are given by experts in their chosen field and include university lecturers, broadcasters and tour guides. Come along to a lecture as a guest (£5 fee) or join for a year's lectures. **Our next lecture is on the 23rd March 2023 at 11.00am on "The Sacred Art of Angkor Cambodia and the Living Arts" by Denise Heywood. Coffee and biscuits will be served from 10.20am**

In 1906 when the Royal Dance Troupe of Cambodia performed in Paris they created a sensation. The sculptor Auguste Rodin was in the audience and was captivated by the exquisite dancers whose meditative poses recalled the friezes on the temples of Angkor. This lecture describes the encounter and reveals the history of Cambodian dance that goes back to the origins of Angkor.

Biography

Art historian, author, lecturer, photographer and journalist, Denise Heywood worked in Cambodia in the 1990s and has been a scholar of Southeast Asian art ever since. Her books include one on the Buddhist temples of Laos, Ancient Luang Prabang and Laos, also in French, and Cambodian Dance Celebration of the Gods, with a foreword by the daughter of King Sihanouk. She writes for art, literary and travel publications and has appeared on television and radio. She has led cultural tours to Southeast Asia and France for the Royal Academy, the Art Fund, Asia House and many more and lectures on cruise ships.

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

Mother's Day Market at Standard Quay, Faversham.

City Core Creatives are hosting a two-day market on the 18th and 19th of March, starting at 10am both days. Come to beautiful Standard Quay and enjoy a lovely stroll along the Creek, a spot of local shopping and some delicious food and drink. There will be a great range of small businesses here to support, including craft stalls, handmade work, fresh food, drink, entertainment and more.

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Parties
Weddings

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To book, email Annie:

jacksonandadams@bopenworld.com 07754 114760

See our availability here: <https://www.eastlingvillagehall.co.uk/calendar>



Eastling Primary School

We have had a busy term at Eastling Primary School since returning from the Christmas holidays. Willow class have enjoyed going to Faversham gym for weekly gymnastic sessions. We have continued our weekly visits to Faversham swimming pool focusing on developing confidence for some of our older children. On Thursday 19th January the school choir travelled by coach to the O2 to be part of the Young Voices 2023 concerts. The children had a truly memorable experience singing with 8000 children and a number of famous artists including Heather Small, Beatbox Collective and violinist Anna Phoebe.

Birch class visited the Beane Museum in Canterbury on Tuesday 31st January. They have been learning about landscapes and went to look at a water painting of Canterbury which they then recreated. Willow class visited Maidstone Museum on Friday 3rd February to look at the mummies as they have been learning about The Egyptians. Whilst they were there they also made clay canopic jars or a sarcophagus. On Monday 6th February Oak class visited Canterbury as part of their geography learning about the locality. They carried out a traffic survey, looked at the different styles of archaeology and made sketches of natural and manmade items.

Monday 6th - Friday 10th February was Children's Mental Health Awareness Week with the focus being Let's Connect. Miss Waugh, the Personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) leader, led assemblies for both the infant and junior children. The infants looked at what mental health was and why it is important to look after their mental health. They shared the story, Room on the Broom looking at the connections between the characters in the story and how they work together as a team. The juniors also focused on the importance of looking after their mental health. They looked at how they can connect with people in different ways including face to face and online. The children thought about who they had already connected with and how even the smallest connection can make a difference. Throughout the week the children took part in daily activities including art, designing games and creating a dance. On Friday the children came to school wearing their own clothes for Dress to Express Themselves Day.

It was Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 7th February. Mr Glazier, the computing lead, delivered assemblies across the school and planned lesson activities for the classes.

This academic year FOES introduced year group cake sales which have been very popular. This term years 5 and 6 had cake sales. The term ended with a Pyjama Disco which was organised by the Friends of Eastling School (FOES).

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.



March 2023

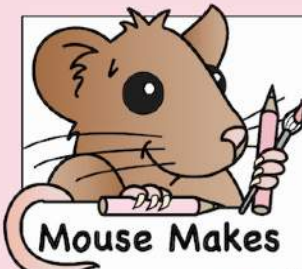
Wednesdays 7.00 - 8.30pm
11 - 18 yr old welcome
8th and 22nd March
Stalisfield Village Hall

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



Stalisfield Youth Group continues on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at Stalisfield Village Hall 7-8.30pm. 11-18y old welcome, free entry.

Tuck shop, music, cake, gaming, table tennis, craft, games and other activities. All welcome! See our Facebook Page or contact Catherine on clnwood@doctors.org.uk for any more information.




Mouse Makes

WHO IS MY MOTHER?

CAIN	ELIZABETH
ISAAC	HANNAH
JESUS	RACHEL
JACOB	REBEKAH
TIMOTHY	EVE
JOSEPH	MARY
SAMUEL	SARAH
JOHN	EUNICE

Look up the Bible verses then find the answers and the names below in the word search



REBEKAH
ELIZABETH
EUNICE
RUTH
MARY
RACHEL
LEAH
ZIPLAH
MOTHER
MUM

BIBLE MOTHERS
Who had two sons called Cain and Abel?

Genesis 4:1-2

Who was 90 years old when she had her son Isaac?

Genesis 17:19

Whose prayers for a child were answered by God?

1 Samuel 1:20

Who was Ruth's Mother-in-Law?

Ruth 1:1-5


Eunice was Timothy's mother, but who was her mother?

2 Timothy 1:5

Who saved her baby by putting him in a basket in the river?

Exodus 6:20

Look up the Bible verses and find out who the Bible mothers are.



M ----- Matt 1:16

O ----- 2 Tim 1:5

T ----- 1 Kings 1:11


H ----- 1 Sam 1:20

E ----- Gen 34:1

R ----- Gen 30:22

How many other words can you make from:

MOTHERING SUNDAY



E	E	L	O	I	S	Z	I	L	A	M	J	H
U	V	N	Z	M	A	R	Y	Z	U	O	Z	R
N	E	A	D	U	R	U	T	H	L	T	I	A
I	J	O	C	H	A	B	E	D	E	H	L	C
C	I	M	B	J	H	M	U	M	A	E	P	H
E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	H	R	A	E
R	E	B	E	K	A	H	A	N	N	A	H	L

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What's On at Belmont

Linocut Printing Workshop: Spring Florals

Monday 20th March, 10am-1.30pm

Our Head Gardener will gather a variety of flowers and leaves for you to use as inspiration for your print. Experiment by printing overlays in different colours onto paper and greeting cards and at the end of the workshop take your linocut home to use again. £40.00pp, all materials, printing equipment and light refreshments are supplied.

Spring Wreath Workshop

Monday 27th, 11am-1pm

This two-hour workshop is the perfect opportunity to craft a handmade, everlasting wreath with Nancy, Box & Bloom. Nancy will take you through the steps to attach a gorgeous selection of dried foliage and flowers to your wreath ring, helping you to create a stunning hanging wreath, or table centre. Suitable for beginners. £60.00pp, all materials and light refreshments included.

Wild Classroom Family Cooking Workshop

Tuesday 4th April, 10am – 1.30pm

Step outside this spring and join Wild Classroom where you and your family will be able to cook over fire using seasonal produce from our Kitchen Garden. £70.00 includes the registration of 2 adults and 2 children aged 4 - 15 years.

Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday 9th April, 11am-3pm

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



Belmont House & Gardens, Throwley, Faversham, Kent ME13 0HH
www.belmont-house.org

Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.

February 1st was the Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.'s first meeting of the year with Peter Vestergaard from East Kent Yoga taking us through Chair Yoga. It is easier for more people to access as there is no floor work. After an initial relaxation exercise, we were all taken through instruction for stretching all parts of the body with a final session of guided meditation. It was very enjoyable and can be taken further through Peter's regular classes at Charing Scout Hut on Wednesdays at 4.15 p.m. for £8. His next class will recommence after half term on 22nd February.

On Wednesday 1st March at 7.30, we have the husband of one of our Members coming to talk to us about a distant relative. Andrew Bond has researched the life of Captain John Quillian, who was First Lieutenant on HMS Victory under Lord Nelson and Andrew has produced a book on the subject. This looks to be an interesting talk, so do bring along Guests.

Our President, Helen, outlined the itinerary for the forthcoming year for Speakers and outings, which promises to be interesting and varied.

If you wish to join us for any or all of our Meetings on the first Wednesday of each month, at Stalisfield Village Hall at 7.30 p.m., please contact Helen Brooks on 07477580727 or Ellie Cameron on 01795 892016.



**THE ARTS
SOCIETY
EGERTON**

Night,
Roros
Church,
Harald
Sohlberg
(1869-
1935)
1903



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

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

**Wednesday 8th March at 2.30 p.m. THE BLUE HOUR:
PAINTING THE NORTH.** Danish and Swedish landscape paintings feature the Blue Hour, that half hour or so just after sunset and before sunrise, when the landscape is suffused with a bluish light, highly atmospheric and iconic of the North
Our lecturer, Karin Fernald, is a researcher best known for her entertaining lectures

Visitors are always very welcome at £5, refunded if you join. 6 months membership costs £24. For further information please contact Christine Willis, our Membership Secretary via cmwillis75@gmail.com or 01233 756377.

See also our website www.theartsocietyegerton.org.uk

Image provided by lecturer

TRUSTEES OF EASTLING VILLAGE HALL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 11 April 2023 at 7.30pm

The Annual General Meeting of the Trustees of Eastling Village Hall will be held on Tuesday 11 April 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. The Village Hall meeting will be followed at 8pm by the Annual Parish meeting of Eastling Parish Council. All Eastling residents are invited to attend both meetings.

Sunday Services

5th March Lent 2

Romans 4. 1-5,13-17, John 3. 1 - 17

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Norton 10.30am Morning Worship

12th March Lent 3

Romans 5.1 - 11, John 4. 5 - 42

Eastling 9am Holy Communion BCP

Throwley 10.30am Morning Prayer

Lynsted 10.30am All Together Now

19th March Mothering Sunday

Colossians 3. 12 - 17, John 19. 25 - 27

Newnham 9am Holy Communion BCP

Stalisfield 10.30am Mothering Sunday

Eastling 10.30am Morning Worship

26th March Lent 5

Romans 8. 6 - 11, John 11. 1 - 45

Throwley 10.30am Holy Communion

Newnham 10.30am Morning Worship

2nd April Palm Sunday

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

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Norton 10.30am Morning Worship

Online Daily Worship Continues

As well as the services in our churches, the daily 9am Morning Prayer at Lynsted and Sunday Breakthrough 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 Tbc

High Downs Parish Safeguarding Officer

Mark Harlow (07979 864000)

Parish Office Email: eastlingchurch@gmail.com

facebook.com/highdownsbenefice

From the Registers

Funeral

Allan Victor Payne

18th February 2023 at Doddington

CONTACT THE GOOD NEWS EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

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

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



Bespoke Later Life Support

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Email: info@nplh.uk

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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

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Eastling Church is joining the Parish Giving Scheme

The Parish Giving Scheme has been set up to help us best manage regular gifts. It is run as a partnership between dioceses on a cost sharing basis.



Why are regular gifts so important to our Church?

The Church of England offers a Christian presence in every community. Together we seek to make this Christian presence the heart of all our cities, towns and villages: by our wonderful buildings; by worshipping together; by serving our communities and by sharing our faith and values. This valuable contribution to our community has a cost, of which 75% is met by personal gifts. For Eastling Church to survive and grow, we rely on regular gifts so that we can plan confidently for the future.

How does it work?

Gifts can be made on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis, by downloading, printing and completing the gift form and the Direct Debit instruction. Even though gifts are made to the Parish Giving Scheme, they are restricted to our parish, giving you peace of mind that your gift cannot be used elsewhere.

What are the main benefits?

The main beneficiary of this scheme will be our church. Through your generous commitment, we can be assured of a regular, tax-efficient source of income which has the capacity to increase with the cost of living, yet involves virtually no administration. You will benefit from a system that is secure, confidential and easy to use, while supporting our church today and for the future.

What happens next?

If you currently donate to St Mary's Eastling via a direct debit or standing order, the final payment will be taken during March. Andrew Baxter will be managing the scheme and he will be writing to everyone who currently donates and allows us to claim Gift Aid setting out fuller details of the new scheme as well as a new direct debit. Anyone who does not give in this way but would like to become involved should contact him – afbaxter47@gmail.com or 07749 403 727.

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News from Citizens Advice Swale

Getting involved is what we do at Citizens Advice Swale. We help people sort out their problems, by giving all kinds of advice – and it's all totally free. We rely on donations and grants in order to change the lives of local people.

citizens
advice

We're sure you've heard of us, but did you know that:

- We're a totally independent small charity run by local people?
- We don't get money from central Government?

In 2021/22 we advised 3,600 clients on 15,200 issues, and income gains, debts written off and benefits realised totalled £1,800,000 with our help. During the same year every £1 invested in Citizens Advice Swale was worth £15.79 in value to the people we helped, or £30.06 in public value. The smallest contribution really can make a big difference.

We're grateful to all our current supporters who help us continue to provide a service in Swale. There are several ways you can help.

Free cashback website donations:

www.giveasyoulive.com/charity/citizensadviceswale

One-off or regular cash donations:

donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/citizensadviceswale

Become a Friend of Citizens Advice Swale:

citizensadviceswale.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Friends-application-form-April-2021.pdf

Choose us as your local charity through the Faversham & District Community Lottery:

www.favershamdistrictlottery.co.uk/support/citizens-advice-swale

Here's how to contact us for advice:

Drop-in sessions (no appointment necessary)

Mondays 10am-12pm, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne
Wednesdays & Fridays 10am-12pm, 43 Stone Street, Faversham

Telephone advice: Call Adviceline on freephone 0808 278 7979
Monday-Friday 10am-4pm

Email advice: Contact us online at www.citizensadviceswale.uk/email-general-advice

Debt advice: Request a call back from our money advice team at www.citizensadviceswale.uk/debt

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



I Like this in Winter

By Audrey Keen.

The stillness just before a storm
The full moon on the frosty night,
The vixen calling to her mate
The owl that hoots.
The rain that drips from shining
leaf
The wind that tears
The spring which strengthens my
belief
That God cares.



Educating Rita

The Arden Theatre, Faversham

Wed 8th - Sat 11th March 2023, 7.30pm

Rita, a married hair stylist in her 20s, wants to go back to school. She begins studying with Dr. Bryant, a professor using alcohol to cope with his divorce. Despite his personal problems, Dr. Bryant helps Rita realize her academic potential. In turn, her passion for learning revitalizes his love of teaching. However, when Rita's blue-collar spouse learns that his wife is more interested in education than homemaking, he becomes frustrated by her independence.

<https://ardentheatre.org.uk>

MAKE
A WILL
MONTH

APRIL
2023



FIND
OUT
MORE

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John Darlington

It is with great sadness that I have to announce the passing of John Darlington. John died on Tuesday the 31st January in the Whitstable & Tankerton Cottage Hospital after suffering for some months with a range of conditions. He would have been 91 in April.

John will be remembered by many in the village. He was quite a character; immensely intelligent, a brilliant artist, an avid reader and a snappy dresser! John took up residence in the big house at Pig Green back in the 60's. He had no power, no gas and no phone for years which didn't seem to bother him at all.

We first came across John some 25 years ago as he held court in the Carpenter's Arms. John had a bohemian air about him and certainly ploughed his own furrow. He had strong opinions about virtually everything and didn't shy away from letting everyone know. He was a regular at quiz nights and was very good at it. He would relish challenging the question setters if he thought the questions weren't factually correct. Regarding John's artistic career, he was a designer for advertising agencies and created some iconic logos for the likes of Nestle. He designed book covers for a number of famous authors and a couple of rock band album covers! He also painted some remarkable landscapes and was commissioned by a number of people to paint portraits. If you live in the village



or pass through, you will have seen his work on the top of the pole outside the Carpenters Arms. He designed the Eastling church and yew tree sign that sits proudly atop it.

In his youth John could be seen in all the swanky London clubs where he hung out with the acting and modelling fraternity. He even had an E type Jag. Quite the dashing lad about town.

In recent years John spoke very fondly of his grand children. He was very proud of them and was particularly enchanted by his two great grandchildren Hugh and Liberty. Their mother, Arabella (John's grand daughter) should receive praise for dealing with John's affairs in latter years and organising a caring and comfortable environment in the final weeks of his life.

John was a spirited and fascinating character and will be very much missed by those who knew him.

Safe journey John.

Arch & Leigh Dyson

Eastling Neighbourhood Watch



Village Warden 07794 010 394
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There are so many scams around at the moment it would be hard to list them all, but please be careful and under no circumstances give your private details away. Should you be worried about any calls either contact the police or give me a call. Remember if you get a call from the police, again do not give them any bank details and, as with all calls where they give you a number to ring to confirm their identity, do not ring the number until twenty minutes after you put the phone down.

We are way into the lambing season now so please keep your dogs on a lead in the vicinity of any livestock.

Spring is on its way and there will be certain people on the lookout for any opportunity to remove any of our gardening equipment, so please make sure that all your mowers etc are locked away securely and, if anything suspicious is seen around locally please report it to the police, with vehicle reg nos if possible. It is easy to report online to Kent police: www.kent.police.uk.

Have a good month
Take Care, Alan

AIR AMBULANCE CHARITY KENT SURREY SUSSEX (KSS) NEEDS MORE VOLUNTEERS

Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex (KSS) needs your support! Having just announced that 2022 was the busiest year in its 33-year history – the life-saving charity responded to 3,224 incidents last year, with 1,353 call outs in Kent - KSS is urgently seeking to recruit more volunteers in order to help with more events and activities in the coming year.

The charity, which provides world-leading pre-hospital emergency care 24/7, currently has over 150 volunteers who help with a wide range of activities including managing collection boxes, marshalling at events, speaking at community events, office tasks and more. Volunteers offer a few hours on an occasional basis or regular hours each month.

Bridget Pepper, from the KSS Volunteer Development Team said, "Our volunteers are highly valued members of Team KSS, and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who donates their time to support us. Over the last year, KSS has benefited from over 4,000 hours of support from volunteers and our volunteers were involved with raising or collecting over £250,000 on our behalf."

"This year, with demand for our service at an all-time high and the need to raise even more funds due to the increased costs of operating our service, we need to recruit more volunteers and we have lots of opportunities available to suit people of all ages and abilities."

"Alongside providing our charity with critical support, volunteers enjoy many benefits from working with us, including meeting new people, attending events and feeling a sense of pride in supporting an incredible charity in their local community."

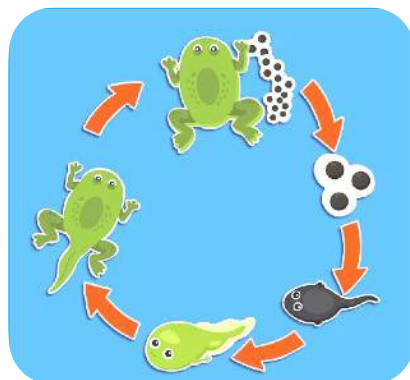
"We hope people from across the communities we serve will get in touch with us and find out more about how they can get involved. We really appreciate all the support we receive."

KSS is an independent charity. It costs £16.6M a year or £45K per day to operate its world leading, life-saving service. This is a significant increase from the £15.2M required in 2022. 87% of KSS's total income is raised through the incredible generosity of its supporters and 10% through NHS commissioning funds. If you are interested in finding out more about being a KSS volunteer, please contact volunteering@aakss.org.uk or visit www.aakss.org.uk

God in the Sciences by Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

A bucket of tadpoles: Springtime, curiosity, and the Theology of Science

When I was nearly three, I knocked a bucket of tadpoles all over the patio. Those unfortunate creatures must have been collected to educate my brother and I on where frogs came from, but a toddler can't just stand by and watch. Can I see up close? Or maybe I was 'helpfully' moving it to another place. I just remember doing something I shouldn't have done, and tadpoles on the ground. I was sad that I wouldn't get to see those creatures grow up.



I might have been great at destroying things when I was a child (my family would probably say I still am), but I absolutely love watching living things up close. The more I learn, the more my sense of wonder grows. For a tadpole to become a frog, large sections of its gut, salivary glands and muscles must die, as well as the gills. The cells in those tissues are programmed to curl up and disintegrate, and are swallowed up by a specialised kind of white blood cell. Legs grow from small sacs of cells on the tadpole's body, and one of my textbooks says that 'The nervous system is also remodelled' - which I suspect is a bit of an understatement.

This knowledge removes a little of the mystery of how a tadpole turns into a frog, but there is plenty more to discover. These few details also reveal the cleverness of the process. Metamorphosis is surprisingly common in the animal kingdom. How

is that an efficient way to grow up, or is efficiency not the most important thing for an animal?

Scientists are essentially grown-ups who are still very much in touch with their inner two-year-old self. They refuse to stop asking questions, even when finding an answer becomes decidedly more awkward than opening a textbook.

Many scientists are people of faith, and this also drives their questioning. They believe that God created a world that was very good, that the purpose of all Creation is to praise Him, we are made in Gods image, and that we are tasked with looking after Creation. So Christians, of all people, should be enjoying and investigating our surroundings. These are the bones of a Theology of Science which serves some of us very well, and keeps us looking into things like buckets of frogs - that is, until a two-year-old comes and knocks them over.



"I agree, Vicar, the church's bats problem is getting worse - all that high-frequency squeaking is interfering with my iPod."



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Kent County Councillor's Report

KCC's annual budget meeting took place last Thursday in Maidstone. There were no cuts to bus subsidies this year, but a combination of rising demand and rising costs meant that there were a number of cuts in other vital areas including adult social care and care for disabled children.

Councillors from all parties expressed concern at the poor financial situation the council is in, and all made it clear that without a significant increase in funding from central government, the council will find it very difficult to make it to the end of this decade. Former KCC leader Sir Paul Carter declared his backing for Kent to be broken up into unitary authorities, arguing that the efficiencies that can be achieved by combining the county council with borough and district level councils would make local authorities far more financially viable.

There are definitely advantages to this approach, but there are also disadvantages too. If Swale were to be absorbed into a unitary authority with some of the surrounding districts, we could see important planning decisions affecting our area made in Ashford, Maidstone or Canterbury (depending on how the boundaries for the new authorities were drawn up).

Without a county level authority we may also have less say on highways issues which would have a knock on effect on our area. At the moment it seems increasingly likely that National Highways will push forward with plans for a Lower Thames Crossing near Gravesend. This will be beneficial for Dartford as it will reduce traffic using the Dartford Crossing, but it has the potential to be hugely negative here in Swale as traffic that would normally reach the

coast via the M20 would be far more likely to travel along the M2 and head down via the already overburdened Brenley Corner.

Having said this, perhaps the additional budget that might be freed up by combining authorities - along with the reduction in confusion caused by having two different councils looking after things like waste collection and disposal - would be enough to offset the disadvantages. One thing I think is certain is that we will be seeing a lot more discussion on this topic in the months and years to come.

FINAL BUS UPDATE

The bus services affected by KCC's subsidy bus cuts finally came into effect this month, with services across the area stopping with effect from 12th February. Users in affected villages will have to rely on the Kent Karrier service which costs £3.50 to use even if you have a bus pass and only serves villages on certain days. For Conyer, Lynsted, Rodmersham, Bredgar, Tunstall and Milstead, the bus is available on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and goes into Sittingbourne. For Doddington, Newnham and Oare, the bus is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays and can take you to either Faversham or Sittingbourne. For more details, please Google 'Swale Kent Karrier' or call 01892 832447.

Any parents unable to get their children to school may be able to appeal for assistance through the Home to School Transport Appeals process. Please contact me at the email address below if you would like further information on this. Rich Lehmann
rich.lehmann@kent.gov.uk
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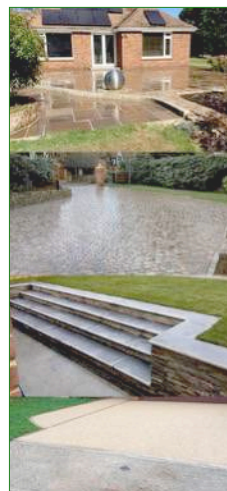
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