

Good News Parish Magazine

High Downs Parish

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



MAY 2024

- 1st Otterden & Stalisfield W.I.
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 2nd Rev Paula Jardine-Rose Licensing
Lynsted Church 7.30pm
- 6th Spring Fair
Belmont House 11am - 4pm
- 8th Arts Society lecture, Egerton
Millennium Hall, Egerton 2.30pm
- 8th Stalisfield Youth Group
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 9th Singing Kettle Song Group
Newnham Village Hall 2 - 3pm
- 14th Throwley Parish Council AGM 6.30pm
Annual Parish Meeting 7.15pm Throwley Church
- 14th Eastling Parish Council Meeting
Eastling Village Hall 6.30pm
- 16th Charing History Society
Parish Hall, Charing 7.30pm
- 16th Stalisfield Annual Parish Meeting
Stalisfield Village Hall 7.30pm
- 19th Hymns & Pimms with Pim
Stalisfield Church 5.30pm
- 20th Copy deadline for June Good News
goodnewsmagazine@me.com
- 22nd Youth Group
Stalisfield Village Hall 7 - 8.30pm
- 23rd Arts Society lecture, Faversham
Alexander Centre 11am
- 24th Eat, Pray, Walk
Doddington Church 1.30pm

JUNE

- 1st Throwley Fête
Throwley Forstal Green
- 1st Stalisfield Fare to Share Street Party
Stalisfield Village Hall 1 - 4pm
- 1st & 2nd Flower & Music Festival
Newnham Church
- 2nd Doddington Open Gardens

Celebration of a New Ministry

The Institution of

The Reverend Paula Jardine-Rose

as Rector of Kingsdown Creekside and High Downs Benefice by
The Right Reverend Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover
and

Induction by The Venerable Andrew Sewell, Archdeacon of
Maidstone
at Lynsted Church Ludgate Lane Lynsted Sittingbourne
ME9 ORQ

Thursday 2nd May at 7:30pm

If you would like to attend, contact Joyce Warren:

joyce.warren@kc-hd.org.uk

Parking very limited

Refreshments afterwards

Pentecost at Stalisfield

Sunday 19th May

Evensong 5.30pm:
Hymns & Pimms with
Pim
All Welcome



Stalisfield Fare to Share Street Party

Saturday 1st June

1pm - 4pm

Stalisfield Village Hall

"Double the celebration, double the fun!"

Join us as we commemorate the 80th anniversary
of D-Day and the 10th anniversary of the new
Stalisfield Village Hall.

Let's feast together as we celebrate community,
history, and milestones.

Bring your favourite nibbles and tipples to share
with your neighbours. Your culinary
contributions will make our community
gathering even more memorable.

It's a day to remember, so mark your calendars
and we'll see you there!

Message for May

Hello friends

Here's an apparently random question to kick off with this month.....I wonder which you would consider to be the most important muscle of the body? I guess most people would say the heart and I wouldn't disagree. However of surely equal importance is the diaphragm. According to James Nestor, breathing expert *'The diaphragm is a jellyfish-shaped muscle that sits below the lungs and operates as the puppet master of our breathing. When we take a deep breath in, the diaphragm descends, enlarging and inflating the lungs with air. As we exhale, the diaphragm ascends, pushing the lungs together and forcing air out. This up-and-down motion of the diaphragm occurs forty to fifty thousand times a day, every day, from the moment we are born to the moment we breathe our last breath.'* Wow! So we can see that without this muscle controlling the heart, the heart would be unable to function.

Breathing is so natural that we hardly give it a second thought until something happens to impede it. When we are in an enclosed environment and the air becomes stale, we are aware that our senses become dulled and our thinking becomes slow, and if something causes us to struggle for breath, things can become quite frightening.

The Hebrew word for breath is 'Ruach' and this is the word given in the first chapter of Genesis to describe God's spirit in creation *'the Spirit (Ruach) of God was hovering over the surface of the waters'*. Later in Genesis the story goes that *'God, formed man (Adam) from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life'*. There is a recognition here that breath – the thing that gives us life and keeps us alive – is an energy of God.

Later this month the church will be celebrating the festival of Pentecost, so named as it takes place 50 days after Easter. This is often considered by Christians to mark the beginning of the Christian Church. It celebrates the time recorded in the book of Acts when God's Holy Spirit filled the followers of Jesus and gave life to their ministry. In part, they experienced this as a sudden invigorating gust of wind that blew through the whole house. Today we often speak of people who are enlivened with enthusiasm and positivity as a 'breath of fresh air'. We know how good fresh air is for our physical bodies – when our days are stale and

our thinking is foggy, we recognise that a blast of fresh air will reinvigorate us. And the same is true of our spiritual selves too. God's spirit is poured out for all of us bringing gifts of love, joy, peace, goodness, kindness, patience, trustfulness, gentleness and self-control. It's there for the breathing in and the breathing out.

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

'His banner' over
me is LOVE Song of Songs 2:4

A quiet afternoon soaking up
God's extravagant love for us
with gentle input
and space for
private reflection

SUNDAY 23RD JUNE
2.30PM - 5.30PM
DODDINGTON CHURCH
ME9 0BD

There is no charge for this afternoon
but please book your place with Lissie Bayford
at lissiebayford@gmail.com
or 07790 287878

May Prayer Pointers



Mondays - Give thanks for the Institution of Revd Paula Jardine-Rose as Rector of our Benefice and pray for her life and work in this new role.

Tuesdays - Pray for all taking exams at this time of year.

Wednesdays - Give thanks for the celebration of Pentecost and pray for the Holy Spirit to be with us all through our Christian lives.

Thursdays - Pray for those known to us who are unwell.

Fridays - Give thanks for aid reaching the people in Gaza and pray for an end to the killing of innocent people.

Saturdays - Pray for our farmers working with the effects of climate change.

Sundays - Share the Joy of the Lord as did the first Christians at Pentecost.

Eastling Church Flower rota



5th & 12th May - Cerys

19th & 26th May - Gemma

2nd & 9th June - Janet & Sue

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



'Happy times with old songs, tea & chatter'

Come and join us in singing for fun
on Thursday afternoons:
9th May, 13th June, 11th July
2pm – 3pm at Newnham Village Hall
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ALL WELCOME
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dementia and their carers
(carers attend free of charge)

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



The Arts Society Egerton

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

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

Wednesday 8th May

**'Uncompromising Genius: the life
and work of Frank Lloyd Wright'
by Fiona Rose**

Frank Lloyd Wright (1857-1959) is recognized as one of the most important architects of all time. Over the course of his long career, he designed over 800 buildings including revolutionary structures such as The Guggenheim Museum, Fallingwater, the Johnson Wax Building and Taliesin. However, Wright's architectural achievements were often overshadowed by his turbulent private life. In his 92 years, he fathered 7 children, married three times, and suffered great personal tragedy. This illustrated lecture provides an overview of his work, colourful personal life and most iconic buildings.

Fiona Rose has been lecturing about topics she feels passionately about since 2010 including William Morris and his circle, the Arts & Crafts Movement, Frida Kahlo and Frank Lloyd Wright. She has a BA in Social Psychology and aims to include the human story behind the artistic endeavours of her subjects. Fiona is a volunteer Tour Guide with the Arts & Crafts gem The David Parr House.

Your local Women's Institute

Are you new to the area? The WI is a great opportunity to make friends and we are lucky to have one here based at Stalisfield!

The WI was founded in 1915 to revitalise rural communities and encourage women to become involved in producing food during the First World War. Since then the organisation aims have broadened and the WI is now the largest voluntary organisation in the UK.

Over the years the WI has campaigned for women's rights everywhere, helped with food preservation during World War 2, and raised issues of housing and homelessness. As far back as the 1970s it has pressured governments to protect the environment with recycling and anti pollution campaigns. The WI is non party political and actively encourages members involvement on issues that matter to them and their communities. The WI also plays a unique role in providing women with educational opportunities and the chance to gain new skills with online courses and craft workshops. All members have free access to the WI website and a newly introduced site for education and learning with courses in the arts, crafts, wellbeing, fitness and technology.

Otterden and Stalisfield WI is a small group which meets on the first Wednesday of each month at Stalisfield village hall at 7.30pm.

Many village WIs have closed in recent years (8 in West Kent last year) and we would welcome some new members to keep our lovely group going. In addition to our varied meeting programme we arrange theatre trips, visits to gardens and other local attractions. Our meeting in April was presented by one of our members Marian Bond and her husband Andrew reading extracts from some of the hundreds of letters written by Andrew's parents while they were separated during WW2 which gave a real insight into social history of the time.

Our AGM meeting is on 1st May which is a chance to review the past year and look forward to our new programme of events, so if you would like to find out more please come along or call Ellie Cameron our secretary on 07775 649337.



Eat, Pray, Walk

Meeting at Doddington church car
park at 1.30pm

24th May, 28th June

Further information from Lissie
Bayford lissie1710@gmail.com or
07790 287878

North Downs Walk

for Cancer Research UK

Rotary Weald of Kent



SUNDAY 9th JUNE 2024
Online Registration now open

www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk/north-downs-walk

A sponsored walk, starting and finishing at Harrietsham Village Hall, followed by a ploughman's lunch and live musical entertainment.

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

50% of sponsorship money is donated to Cancer Research UK, and the other 50% to your choice of charity or good cause.

An opportunity for your fundraising, with Rotary providing the organisation



All expenses are underwritten by our event sponsor, Family Funeral Service.

Every penny raised in sponsorship will go to the charities.



Registered with FUND-RAISING REGULATOR
Cancer Research UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1059484), Scotland (SC044885), the Isle of Man (1453) and Jersey (247).
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Resuscitation Council (UK)



Defibrillators in our Villages

Ready for anyone to use in an emergency, please find the nearest to you:

Eastling sited at 1 Manor Lees, the Street, Eastling. ME13 0BE

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

Stalisfield sited at Stalisfield Village Hall, ME13 0JE

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

May 9th:

Notes on Ascension Day

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: "When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands - and blessed them."

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with his return to his Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless his disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles - persecution and death - and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: "While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven." (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: "I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God..." (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have



Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: "they worshipped Him - and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God." (Luke 24:52,53) No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! "I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

Ascension Day
Thursday 9th May
Holy Communion
7.30pm in Newnham Church

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Belmont House & Gardens What's On

Paper Peony Workshop

Monday 13th May, 11am-1pm

Join us at Belmont to learn how to make a selection of paper peonies and eucalyptus. All materials will be supplied including printed instructions for you to carry on your creative journey at home. £35.00 per person.

Meet the Head Gardener Tour

Tuesday 21st May, 1-3pm

Join our Head Gardener, Graeme, for a walking tour around our beautiful gardens to see some of the many species of plants and trees we have at Belmont. He will also tell you about the seasonal work involved in maintaining the gardens. £12.00 per person.

Kids Herbal Workshop

Tuesday 28th May, 10.30am-12pm

During the session, children will get the chance to make herbal stress/glitter balls, a herby bath bomb, homemade lavender cordial to taste and more! £15.00 per child. Suitable for children aged 7 and over.

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

www.belmont-house.org



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 or join for a year's lectures.

Our next lecture is on the Thursday 23rd May 2024

**"Post war fashion illustrations and Artists of today"
by Connie Gray.**

Coffee and biscuits from 10.20am, lecture at 11am.

As the world emerged from WWII and French couturier Christian Dior introduced his revolutionary 'New Look' in 1947, fashion illustration was to play a pivotal role in the success of fashion houses who had struggled to survive the war years in Europe and new designers who were about to step onto the international stage.

Biography:

With a background in fashion and broadcasting, Connie Gray is a specialist in the history of 20th century fashion illustration and French haute couture. As a curator and archivist, she works closely with institutions and foundations on acquisitions, conservation and exhibition projects. As the lead curator for the art gallery Gray M.C.A, she curates the acclaimed exhibition Drawing on Style each year that celebrates the masters of fashion illustration and post war fashion houses alongside running comprehensive lecture programmes that accompany exhibitions in London and New York. She has written and presented a series of on-line masterclasses, talks and short films on the subject of fashion illustration and French haute couture that have become required viewing for students of fashion.

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

Come and join the fun!

ASHFORD AND TENTERDEN
SAMARITANS

GOLF DAY 2024

Friday, 17th May



Ashford Golf Club, Sandyhurst Lane, TN25 4NT

Teams of four, best two scores
Cost per person: £60 / Ashford members: £45
12 noon – Intro and Bacon Butty
1 pm – Shotgun Start
Halfway House – Beer & Refreshments available
Lunch: Curry (no need to change)



Prizes: 1st, 2nd, 3rd ...
Straightest Drive & Nearest Pin

Raffle and Auction

To book your team contact:

**Kate Jamieson: 07810 721125 or
katejamiesoncornhill@gmail.com**

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(text Kate to let her know who has paid, for how many and how much please)

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Your history society needs YOU

... to share a glass of wine with us, or tea, coffee, soft drinks, nibbles as well as a Display and Talk about the Charing History Society - A 'What we Do' - Talk!



Please come to the AGM

Thursday 16th May 2024

Parish Hall, Station Road, Charing

Start promptly at 7.30pm



**CHARING & DISTRICT LOCAL
HISTORY SOCIETY**

www.charinghistory.co.uk

Services in our Benefice

Thursday 2nd May

Lynsted 7.30pm Institution and Induction of Revd. Paula Jardine-Rose as Rector of Kingsdown Creekside and High Downs Benefice

5th May Easter 6

Acts 10. 44 - end, John 15. 9 - 17

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Norton 10.30am Morning Worship

9th May Ascension Day

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

Newnham 7.30pm Holy Communion

12th May Easter 7

Acts 1. 15 - 17, 21 -26, John 17. 6 - 19

Throwley 10.30am Morning Prayer

Oare 10.30am Holy Communion

Lynsted 10.30am All Together Now

19th May Pentecost

Acts 2. 1 - 21, John 15. 26 - 27, 16. 4b - 15

Eastling 10.30am Morning Worship

Norton 10.30am Holy Communion

Stalisfield 5.30pm Hymns and Pimms with Pim

26th May Trinity Sunday

Romans 8. 12 - 17, John 3. 1 - 17

Throwley 10.30am Holy Communion

2nd June Trinity 1

2 Corinthians 4. 5 - 12, Mark 2. 23 - 3. 6

Eastling 10.30am Holy Communion

Online Daily Worship Continues

As well as the services in our churches, the daily 9am Morning Prayer will continue via Benefice Facebook Page

<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 Revd Paula Jardine-Rose
paula.jardine.rose@kc-hd.org.uk

Benefice Administrator Joyce Warren
01795 521831 joyce.warren@kc-hd.org.uk

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

Reader Caroline Ramshaw (07799 538809)

Anna Chaplain Caroline Ramshaw
AnnaChaplaincy@outlook.com

Reader Canon Pim Baxter (07710 116269)

Church Contacts

Eastling Andrew Baxter, Warden (01795 890598)

Administrator E mail: stmaryeastling@gmail.com

Stalisfield with Otterden

Jenny King, Warden (01795 890366)

Chrissie Webster, Administrator
(07590 351977)

Throwley David Elvin, Chair of Throwley Church Council
E mail: david.j.elvin@gmail.com

High Downs Parish Safeguarding Officer

Mark Harlow (07979 864000)

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

CONTACT THE GOOD NEWS EDITOR

Hilary Harlow 01795 890338

If you would like to submit articles, or to advertise in the June 2024 magazine, send your submission by 20th May to: goodnewsmagazine@me.com.

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

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

News from Citizens Advice Swale

citizens
advice

At Citizens Advice Swale we help people sort out their problems, by giving all kinds of advice – and it's all totally free. Did you know, we rely on donations and grants in order to change the lives of local people? We're a totally independent small charity, and we don't get money from central Government.

In 2023/24 we advised 2,627 clients, wrote off £325,002 debts, and helped our clients gain income of £1,133,321. Every £1 invested in Citizens Advice Swale was worth £12.04 in value to the people we helped, or £21.62 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.

Cashback when you shop online: <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/charity/citizensadvice-swale>

One-off or regular cash donations: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/citizensadvice-swale>

Become a Friend of Citizens Advice Swale:
<https://citizensadvice-swale.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Friends-application-form-May-2023.pdf>

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

<https://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, Sittingbourne

Tuesdays 10am-12pm, Sheppey

Wednesdays & Fridays 10am-12pm, Faversham

Telephone advice

Call Adviceline on freephone 0808 278 7979 (Monday-Friday 10am-4pm)

Email advice

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

Debt advice

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

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



Where the hillside meets the cool green wood below

By Audrey Keen

I hasten to a nearby wood
Where all the trees are wet,
But once I step inside I feel alone - and yet
The bluebells and the soft green leaves
Hide singing birds which send
Tuneful little messages to welcome me
A friend.
While on the grassy hill rise, again
The hyacinths grow,
And on the crooked path I pause
To see the view below.
There's tumbled clouds that pass above
The flowering hawthorn tree
Which shade the sun and send grey moving
shadows
Over me.
And as I walk it seems so very, very long ago
That this green lane was frosty
And the trees were tipped with snow.
But I will rest a while and sit among the flowers
of blue,
And listen to the blackbird, the wren and the
grey cuckoo.

Treasurer Wanted

High Downs Parochial Church Council is looking for a treasurer.

The three churches which make up the parish, are responsible for their own accounts so the work includes making a small number of payments to suppliers and ensuring that the 'Parish Share' and insurances are paid regularly. The money for these comes from the individual churches on a monthly basis.

You don't need to be an accountant!
If you think you can help, please get in touch with Andrew Baxter, secretary to High Downs PCC as soon as possible. His number is 07749 403727 or afbaxter47@gmail.com.



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Frith Old Farmhouse, Otterden
Sundays 5th & 19th May
12.30 - 4pm Admin £6, children free.

The Old Rectory, Otterden
Bunce Court Road
Wednesday 8th & Thursday 9th May, 10am - 4pm.
Pre-booking is essential

Beech Court Gardens, Challock
Sunday 19th May
11am - 4.30pm, Admin £5, children free.

Doddington Place
Wednesday 22nd May
11am - 5pm, Admin £9, children £3

Belmont, Throwley
Sunday 2nd June
11am - 4pm, Admin £5, children free.



The Plough Inn, Stalisfield;
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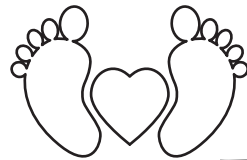
Mental health is so important we are offering a free tea/coffee on **Wellbeing Wednesdays** between 4.30pm & 6pm & 10% off drinks to encourage everyone out to chat with friends or make new ones.

Don't forget that we offer a **take away Fish & Chip service** Wednesdays & Thursday 5.30 - 6.45pm.

The Pride of Plough Please don't forget to send in your nominations to community@theploughinnstalisfield.co.uk

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

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Unit C The Market Place, Brogdale Farm
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ME13 8XZ



Flower Festival

Saturday 1st June
Sunday 2nd June
10am - 6pm

St.Peter & St.Paul's Church
Newnham
ME9 0LL

*Donations to the church clock restoration
in memory of Val Buckett*

There will also be a concert in the church on Saturday evening at 7pm

*On Sunday take the opportunity to visit the
Open Gardens event in the nearby village of
Doddington*

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

FOR CLASS DETAILS

CONTACT YOUR LICENSED ZUMBA INSTRUCTOR:

ROSIE BAKER

07809 490 982 - rosiezumba2017@gmail.com

FACEBOOK: @ZUMBAWITHMEROSIEB



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Join me at:

Stalisfield Village Hall, ME13 OHY - Thursdays 18.30 - 19.30

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

NO DANCE EXPERIENCE REQUIRED! 16 & OVER

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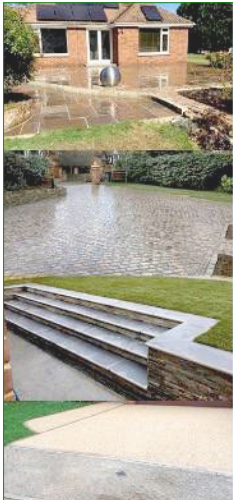
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KCC Councillor's column

It would be remiss of me not to write something about the subject which has been the talk of Swale for the past month – bins.

The problems we've seen with late, or in many cases entirely missed, collections across large parts of the borough have understandably generated a significant volume of calls to our customer service team and calls and emails to councillors. They have also generated a significant number of posts and comments on Facebook.

I am very sorry for the inconvenience and distress that this service has caused across the borough during the past month. The switchover has clearly been a failure, although possibly not to the degree that many would believe. There are large parts of the borough that have received a 'perfect' service so far, and it is primarily the rural areas which have been missed (in many cases consistently). I'd like to share the reasons why this is, and what Suez have been, and are continuing to do, to remedy the situation.

Firstly, to respond to a question which I've seen raised, the reason we no longer have a contract with **BIFFA** is simply that the contract we had with them expired. Along with our partners in Ashford and Maidstone, we put out a tender and **SUEZ** was the only company to bid for that contract.

More on this can be read online at www.tinyurl.com/SBCwaste

Some general reasons why the rounds are currently taking longer include:

New routes – the routes have been redrawn to be more efficient and resilient in the long term. We have more vehicles out in the same parts of the borough on the same day.

This means that when a crew member is suddenly unable to work, (this work has a higher rate of injury than most), or there is a vehicle breakdown, we have other vehicles nearby who can pick up the rest of that round. The completion of the new routes will get faster and more efficient with practice, but it may take a few weeks.

New processes – the crews now have handheld devices which can be used to register which properties have been collected from and which haven't. This additional piece of work may slow crews down as they get used to it, but in the long term will bring benefits in terms of more accurate data and a greater ability to send crews out to missed areas without them needing to be reported by the public.

The main reason the rural rounds have been hit disproportionately is that the new routes have not been assigned as efficiently as they should have been in terms of areas served by narrow lorries and those that have full-size lorries. There are large parts of the borough which can easily be navigated by the larger trucks and were under the previous contract. **SUEZ** have acknowledged this and are making changes to the routes to switch more properties and areas onto the full-size trucks. This will greatly improve their ability to complete collection rounds.

SUEZ have also employed a number of new staff, both on the driver side and the loader side, and this week, (week beginning 15th April), we are beginning to see the effect of those additional staff and a much greater proportion of collections being completed on the scheduled day. I am hopeful that this trend will continue and that we will reach a state of normal service by early to mid-May.

Rich Lehmann
rich.lehmann@kent.gov.uk
<http://kentgreencouncillors.news/>



Throwley Parish Council

AGM at 6.30pm, followed by the Annual Parish Meeting from 7.15pm on Tuesday 14th May, in Throwley Church

Eastling

Annual Parish Council Meeting Will be held on Tuesday 14th May at 6.30pm in Eastling Village Hall All are welcome to attend

Stalisfield Annual Parish Meeting

and Annual Parish Council Meeting Will be held on Thursday 16th May at 7.30pm in Stalisfield Village Hall All are welcome to attend

Eastling Neighbourhood Watch



Village Warden 07794 010 394 or 01795 890848

Police 101 Emergency 999

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



Funeral live-streaming internet scam

Scammers have been targeting the next of kin of deceased persons by sending emails claiming to offer live-streaming for a funeral service.

In a past case, the scammers sent the offer with the full name of the deceased, date, and time of the funeral, with ways of paying a fee.

These scammers use this as a way to get bank details to then exploit.

Make sure to take extra care before giving out any personal details.

Eastling Primary School.....

celebrated Science Week in term three focusing on the theme of 'Time.' The children had a fun packed week of learning including having a Virtual Reality workshop experience. Each workshop was related to their class learning and included the human body, under the sea and a safari. A group of children from Willow and Oak classes took part in a Lego workshop at Kent Science Park.

The whole school visited Rochester Cathedral on Friday 23rd February. The infants also took part in a toy workshop at Rochester Museum and the juniors visited Rochester Castle. The whole day was kindly funded by The Bunce Trust.

It was also children's mental health week last term and Miss Waugh (PSHE lead) organised a range of activities for the children including assemblies and Dress to Express themselves day. We celebrated World Book Week from Monday 4th March. The children took part in a range of activities including teacher book swap and dress up day. Willow and Oak classes transformed their classrooms into Narnia. The children were invited to decorate a paper plate as part of World Book Day celebrations and Mrs Baxter kindly judged the entries. The school had local children's author Emily Davison visit each of the classes to share her new book 'Is is a seed?'

On Tuesday 26th March there was a whole school outdoor learning day where we worked with Wild Classroom. The day began with an Open Session of OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) with many parents staying to enjoy playing with their children. The cooking was themed around the classes learning and included vegetable risotto, sardines and fruit crumble. There was lots of other wonderful learning including visiting Eastling woods.

Year 6 had a successful residential trip, Monday 18th March- Friday 22nd March, to PGL Marchants Hill. The week was great fun and the children will all have long lasting memories. The children experienced a vast array of activities including climbing, abseiling, rifle shooting, zip line and many more team building games. The children were so worn out by the busy schedule that on some mornings Mr Glazier had to wake the children up.

Coach Colin organised for the girl's football team to meet Alessia Russo (England footballer) at Bearsted on Thursday 29th February. Coach Colin was Alessia's first football coach and she was invited back to her home club to open the new club house. The girls took part in a training session before meeting Alessia. The event was covered by both ITV and the BBC. The girls football team then ended the season on a high winning 2-1 against Whitstable Juniors on Thursday 15th March.

Term four ended with the traditional Easter Bonnet competition and a sponsored Easter obstacle event which FOES (Friends of Eastling School) organised.

Any prospective parents are welcome to call the office on 01795 890252 for further details. More information can be found on our school website.

Stalisfield Youth Group



8th & 22nd May in Stalisfield Village Hall, 7 - 8.30pm

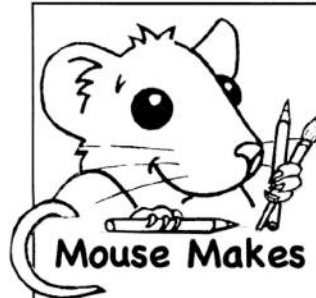
Free to all 11-18yr olds and year 6 students now welcome to attend.



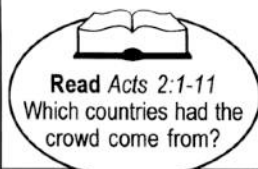
We have table tennis, craft, games, summer outdoor sports equipment, music, Wii and Xbox gaming, tuck shop and free cake!



Any questions please contact Catherine on 07929 928 046



It was the festival of PENTECOST and the Apostles and other believers were all together when they heard a sound like a strong wind and saw what looked like tongues of fire which spread out and touched every person. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages as the Spirit enabled them. A crowd had gathered outside and each of them heard the believers speaking in their own language about the great things God had done.



A bookmark for PENTECOST

The Holy Spirit

Teaches
John 14:26

Reveals
John 14:15

GUIDES
John 16:7-11

Helps
Romans 8:26

Comforts
John 14:16-17

Transforms
2 Corinthians 3:18

The work of God's Holy Spirit in us brings:

LOVE
JOY
PEACE
PATIENCE
KINDNESS
GOODNESS
FAITHFULNESS
HUMILITY
SELF CONTROL

Galatians 5:22-23

To make your bookmark: Carefully cut around the outside, fold in half along the dotted line and glue together. Add a tassel to the bottom with a length of wool or ribbon. You can make it stronger by gluing onto card before folding.