



## BELL RINGING

Although church bells might have been originally introduced to bring people to worship they soon became used to celebrate and announce special events.

The Millennium celebrations were used as a focal point to get many sets of bells around the country repaired. Taking advantage of extra money being granted from a variety of sources to help with the many different repair and replacement needs.

Some towers needed a good cleaning. One I know had been used as a good place for nest building by a number of rooks. Here's a bit of maths for you. If each pair use 300 sticks to build their nest, and you have 10 pairs each year for 7 years, how many feet thick will the debris be? The answer - a lot! And it takes a great deal of co-operation from a number of people to get it out and destroyed.

Others needed their floors strengthening to bear the weight of the bells, some needed their bells repairing or even replacing. This needed specialist work and transport to and back from their work places.

Then there's the little things like new bell ropes at £100 each, new stays at £50 and so on. These were often given by individuals but they all had to be paid for at the same time as having a set of bells is really an 'all or nothing event'.

When you think how much planning and oversight all this takes, you can understand it's not a task to be taken lightly.

This month - have a listen for a church ringing a set of bells; perhaps on a weekly practise, or a wedding, another type of celebration, or even muffled for a funeral. Think about all those things that go into making them safe and working and rung. What does this say to you about God?

Ospringe Church has a fine ring and a winning team of ringers. Listen on Sundays before the mid morning service or at practice time on Friday evenings.

## Sunday Schools

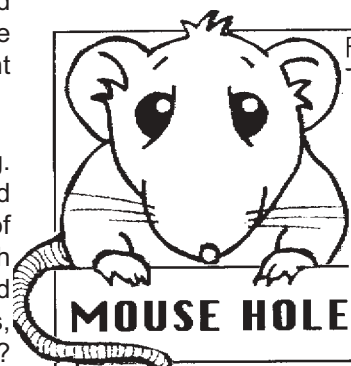
**Painter's Forstal** (8 - 13 yrs) meets on 7th September and 5th October, at 10.40am in the Champion Hall.

**Ospringe** meets in church, during the 11am services on Sundays 14th and 28th September.

**S Club** meets on 14th September, 10am in Eastling Village Hall.

## Club 8 -13

September meetings on 5th and 19th 6.15pm in Champion Hall.

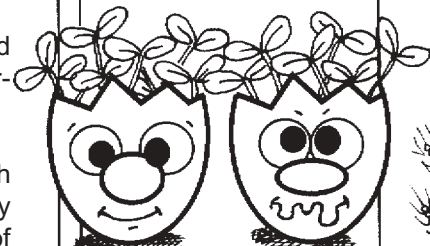


### MOUSE HOLE

The land has yielded its harvest: God, our own God, has blessed us. Psalm 67:6

### Indoor Harvest

After you have eaten a boiled egg, carefully clean out the shells. Paint or draw a face on the side.



Put a damp ball of cotton wool in the egg and sprinkle cress seeds on the top.

Over the next few days watch the cress 'hair' grow!

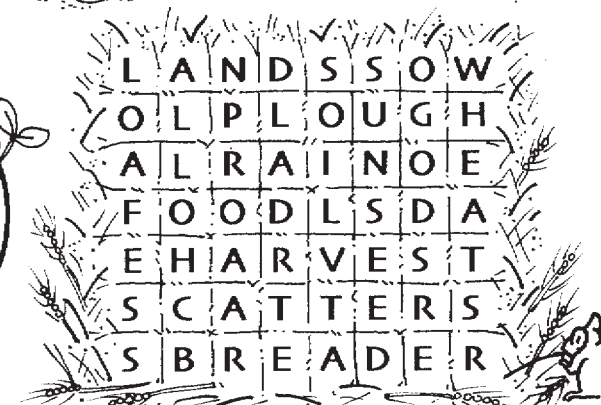
From my home in the church I learn about all sorts of things...



We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand:

he sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain; the breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.

All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above: then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love.



Find these words in the haystack:

HARVEST PLOUGH FOOD SEED GOD WHEAT SUN SOIL RAIN BREAD SCATTER LAND SOW LOAF

# Good News Parish Magazine September 2003



## Friends of Kent Churches Sponsored Bike Ride Bike or Hike

around Kent Churches Saturday 13th September 10am - 6pm

No entry fee - all ages welcome. Anyone can ride, or walk, for their local church. Contact one of the numbers below for a sponsorship form and list of churches open. This is an excellent chance to see inside churches which are often closed.

Whitehill Chapel will be open from 10am-6pm on September 13th. Tea/coffee and cakes at reasonable prices will be served to anyone who wishes to visit, not just cyclists. Plus a small cake stall.

Please support our cyclists and/or stewards by sponsoring. Telephone: 532756 to support Whitehill Chapel 890469 to support Eastling Church 536366 to support Ospringe Church

## Harvest Celebrations in our Churches

Stalisfield 10am Sunday 28th September  
Eastling 10am Sunday 5th October  
Painter's Forstal 11am Sunday 5th October  
Ospringe 11am Sunday 12th October

Preparation for Harvest Festivals  
Gifts to be used for decoration may be brought to Whitehill Chapel at 10am on Friday 3rd October, or to Eastling Church at 3pm on Friday 3rd October. All helpers welcome.

### Autumn

by Florence Hoatson

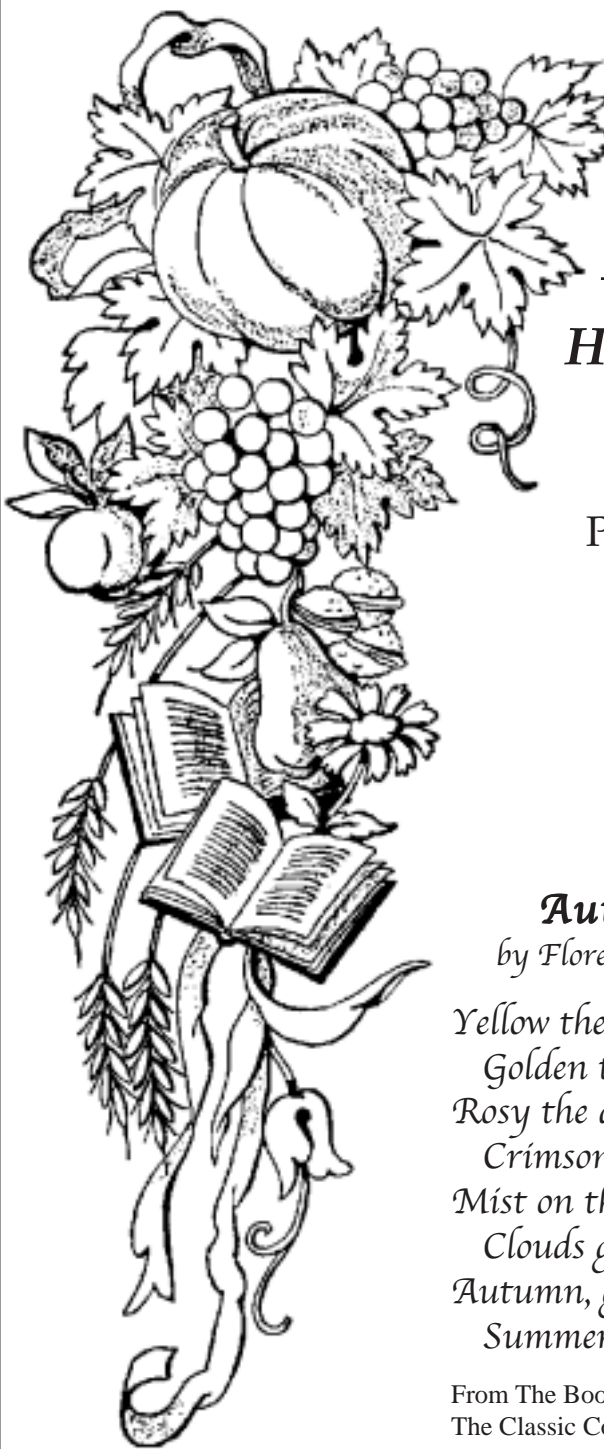
Yellow the bracken,  
Golden the sheaves,  
Rosy the apples,  
Crimson the leaves;  
Mist on the hillside,  
Clouds grey and white.  
Autumn, good morning!  
Summer, good night!

From The Book of 1000 Poems; The Classic Collection, Collins

## An Autumn Feast

Saturday 11th October 7.15 for 7.30pm in the Champion Hall.

A buffet supper followed by quiz type games. Tickets and further details will be available after 28th August from 532756.



## The Parable of the Pencil

The Pencil Maker took the pencil aside just before putting him into the box. "There are five things you need to know," he told the pencil, "before I send you out into the world. Always remember them and never forget, and you will become the best pencil you can be."

**One:** You will be able to do many things, but only if you allow yourself to be held in someone's hand.

**Two:** You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, but you'll need it to become a better pencil.

**Three:** You will be able to correct any mistakes you might make.

**Four:** The most important part of you will always be what's inside.

**and Five:** On every surface you are used on, you must leave your mark. No matter what the condition, you must continue to write."

The pencil understood and promised to remember, and went into the box with purpose in its heart.

Now, replacing the pencil with you; always remember them and never forget, and you will become the best person you can be.

**One:** You will be able to do many great things, but only if you allow yourself to be held in God's hand. And allow other human beings to access you for the many gifts you possess.

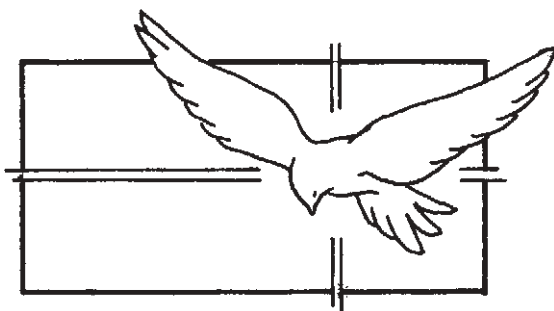
**Two:** You will experience a painful sharpening from time to time, by going through various problems, but you'll need it to become a stronger person.

**Three:** You will be able to correct any mistakes you might make, by repenting and being willing to change.

**Four:** The most important part of you will always be what's on the inside.

**And five:** On every surface that you walk through, you must leave your mark. No matter what the situation, you must continue to do your duties.

By understanding and remembering the example given by Jesus, let us proceed with our life on this earth having a meaningful purpose in our heart.



### Prayer Pointers September 2003

- Sundays** For a spirit of Christian hope.
- Mondays** For friends and neighbours who may need our help.
- Tuesdays** For those who work with young people in the benefice.
- Wednesdays** For those changing schools this term.
- Thursdays** For those responsible for national security.
- Fridays** All who work to reduce the spread of AIDS worldwide.
- Saturdays** Missionaries and their families in Africa.



## Funeral of Kitty Baker, 17/7/03, at Stalisfield Church.



Kitty and Reg on the occasion of their Diamond Wedding and Blessing Celebration on 29th September 2002 at Stalisfield Church

The Baker family would like to thank all those wonderful people who helped to make my Mum's funeral a memorable occasion. Thanks to all the ladies who made an excellent job of the decorating of the church. Mum would have loved the beautifully scented display. Thanks to Graham Galer for playing the organ, a job that Mum enjoyed for many years. Thanks to Pat Pollard for conducting such a heartfelt and joyous service, which turned a sad day into a memorable one. Thanks to all those neighbours, friends and relatives who attended. Mum would have been so pleased to have seen so many friendly faces. The day portrayed a special lady. Thank you all once again  
Gill Linch

## Herbert James 'Jim' Smith 2nd August 1928 - 2nd August 2003



On Monday 11th August, over 100 friends and colleagues joined the Smith family in Eastling Church to celebrate the life of Jim. Although it was a sad occasion, everyone has such fond memories of Jim that laughter accompanied the tears. During the service, led by Revd. Pat Pollard, we sung some of Jim's favourite hymns. In the presence of his mum, Betty, and brother Jimmy, son John ably read from St. John's gospel. Priest in Charge, Revd. Penny Fenton gave the address telling us of Jim's lifetime of work in and around Eastling, and of the affection and respect in which he was held. He served 49 years on Eastling P.C.C., including 9 years as verger and 31 years as Warden, and smoothed the way for 8 Rectors. Jim was always on hand to welcome newcomers and ready to help anyone with a problem. His popularity was evident by the chatter of all who stayed for refreshments after the service. Jim will be greatly missed by us all.

## CHOIR REPORT

"If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. And now these three remain, faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."  
1 Corinthians Ch.13. verses 1 and 13.

It was good to sing at the weddings of Rebecca and Martin and Becky and Neil. I have put some photos on display in Church. The singing at both weddings was great from the congregation! The brides both looked radiant and the weather for both was warm. Becky was very late and that gave me a wonderful opportunity to play lots of splendid pieces, one loud alternated with a quieter one. However, brides, I do **not** advocate being late for your wedding!! The choir were superb on the hymns and singing "English Country Gardens". Don sang a solo before the service, "The Old Rugged Cross". This hymn held special memories for Neil of his Grandparents. Vicky Brenchley sang "All things bright and beautiful" to the tune, "Royal Oak".

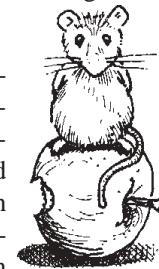
Lauren sang, "Panis Angelicus", "Pie Jesu" and Caccini's "Ave Maria". The gentleman who did the video recording for Rebecca and Martin was so impressed with our windows and Lauren's singing that he is coming to make a special recording for Lauren and me at his suggestion. Thank you, Choir, for your support.

Vicky and Lauren are keen to work on duets together! I have a new song for them which I heard a Canadian choir sing in the Cathedral, "The Gift of Love" using the folk tune, "O Waly, Waly" and based on the words of 1 Corinthians 13. The last verse has a descant which can also be played on the flute or oboe and I have also transcribed the descant for the clarinet.

Vicky sang "All things" at the Faversham Primary Schools Festival in July and Bill was delighted when she sang it during a Service as it is another of his favourite tunes. He was also thrilled to hear "Panis Angelicus" sung by Lauren. It is good to have such praise. Thank you Lauren and Vicky.

## FROM THE ORGAN SEAT

I am BIG GAME HUNTING in church as mice are attacking the organ and think nothing of running round the choir stalls!! Little varmints!!



Brian Adams, one of my Organist colleagues, who played for our M.U. Deanery services, is the organist at Holy Trinity, Milton Regis, Sittingbourne. He and his wife, Linda, are organising an Organ Concert with David Flood playing, to inaugurate their new electronic organ on Friday, 26th September, at 7.30 p.m. The organ was used at Exeter Cathedral whilst their pipe organ was being renovated so it is BIG! Holy Trinity is a BIG church and an ancient one too, so do have a look around. They have their small pipe organ as well, so David may play both! It was only this time last year that David and Gill did that wonderful concert for us! You will be most welcome and there is parking by the Church and Church Hall.

We must congratulate our young folk on their Examination results. They have worked hard. Their teachers must be congratulated too. It is great to see them so excited about their futures as they step out to Sixth Forms and Universities and Colleges. We love to hear of their progress. Congratulations all round, youngsters and schools.

"The Church is a house with a hundred gates; and no two people enter at exactly the same angle"  
G.K.Chesterton, 1874 to 1936, from the M.U.Prayer Diary for 29th July, 2003. Music has always been important in my worship and I do like the range that is given within the Church of England.

Vicky Shepherd.

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## Services in our Benefice

**31st August 11th Sunday after Trinity**  
 Stalisfield 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)  
 Benefice Service

United Church, Preston Street 4.30 p.m.  
 Churches together in Faversham Hop Festival Service

### Tuesday 2nd September

Whitehill Chapel 2.15 p.m. Holy Communion

### 7th September 12th Sunday after Trinity

James 2. 1 - 10, 14 - 17, Mark 7. 24 - 37

Ospringe 8 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)  
 Eastling 10 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)  
 Whitehill Chapel 10.40 a.m. Young Church (over 8's)  
 Whitehill Chapel 11 a.m. Family Service  
 Ospringe 11 a.m. Morning Prayer  
 Otterden 3 p.m. Evening Prayer (BCP)

### 14th September 13th Sunday after Trinity

James 3. 1 - 12, Mark 8. 27 - 38

Eastling 8 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)  
 Stalisfield 10 a.m. Morning Prayer  
 Eastling 10.30a.m. Newstyle  
 Ospringe 11 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)

### 21st September 14th Sunday after Trinity

James 3. 13 - 4. 3, 7-8a, Mark 9. 30 - 37

Ospringe 8 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)  
 Eastling 10 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)  
 Stalisfield 10 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)  
 Ospringe 11 a.m. Family Service

### 28th September 15th Sunday after Trinity

James 5. 13 - 20, Mark 9. 38 - 50

Stalisfield 10 a.m. Harvest Festival  
 Eastling 10 a.m. Young Style  
 Whitehill Chapel 11 a.m. People's Choice

Guest Speaker: John Whalan

Ospringe 11 a.m. Family Communion

### 5th October 16th Sunday after Trinity

Hebrews 1. 1- 4; 2.5 - 12, Mark 10. 2 - 16

Ospringe 8 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)  
 Eastling 10 a.m. Harvest Festival  
 Stalisfield 10 a.m. Holy Communion (CW)  
 Whitehill Chapel 10.40 a.m. Sunday School (8-13s)  
 Whitehill Chapel 11 a.m. Harvest Family Service  
 Ospringe 11 a.m. Morning Prayer

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

## Contacting the Church's staff

For general enquiries and for specific enquiries about Baptisms and Weddings, please telephone 536366. ( Revd Penny Fenton, Priest in Charge) If you would like the parish clergy to conduct a funeral, either in our churches or elsewhere, please ask the funeral director to make the necessary arrangements.

### October Good News

If you would like to advertise in this magazine, submit articles, features or stories for publication, or would like any forthcoming events publicised, please send your magazine contribution by the 15th September to Hilary Harlow, Pinks Farm, Eastling, Faversham ME13 0BA. Tel: 01795 890338. Where possible, please submit your entries by e-mail: h.f.harlow@talk21.com

### From the Registers

#### Baptisms

CHARLIE DOUGLAS Stembridge  
 27th July 2003 at Ospringe

JAMES PAUL Akhurst  
 3rd August 2003 at Ospringe

JOSEPH JACOB Holttum  
 3rd August 2003 at Ospringe

#### Weddings

Katharine Mary WATSON and Karl FULKER  
 26th July 2003 at Ospringe

Rebecca Jane HILLS and Martin Edward FALL  
 2nd August 2003 at Ospringe

Rebecca Victoria SHAPCOTT - HUME  
 and Neil John PALMER  
 9th August 2003 at Ospringe

Jane Anne GILBERT and Martin Christopher LACEY  
 16th August 2003 at Stalisfield

#### Diamond Wedding - Renewal of Vows

Ronald and Florence PARTRIDGE  
 2nd August 2003 at Ospringe

#### Funerals

David Ernest JARRETT  
 24th July 2003  
 Funeral at Ospringe with burial at Love Lane

Gladys PATCHING  
 29th July 2003 Cremation at Charing  
 Drusilla SUDDS  
 4th August 2003 Funeral and burial at Love Lane

June Elizabeth TAYLOR  
 7th August 2003 Cremation at Thanet

Herbert James 'Jim' SMITH  
 11th August 2003 Funeral and burial at Eastling

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### Neighbourhood Watch

There will be a General Meeting to re-launch the Ospringe Neighbourhood Watch on Friday 12th September at 7.45 pm in the Champion Hall, Painter's Forstal. Anyone interested in joining the scheme will be very welcome.

Neighbourhood Watch has the potential drastically to reduce crime in our rural area by building on existing good neighbour relationships and forging new ones. Help us to realise this potential and come along to this meeting which is open to all. The Ospringe Watch is the hub of a messaging service which enables direct links between members in neighbouring watches and provides a bridge across the Police boundaries. This alert scheme, based on fax or email, has proved very popular and we are keen to extend the coverage to as many households as possible.

For further details of the Watch Meeting or the alert scheme contact me, Brian Wimlett, by email: brian.wimlett@whitehill-intl.com or by telephone (01795) 532747.

## EASTLING PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting of the Eastling Parish Council is in Eastling Village Hall on Monday, 8th September at 8pm. As usual, there will be an open forum for villagers suggestions and questions at the beginning of the meeting.

#### Eastling Village Website

It's now even easier to log onto the Eastling village website. With the support of Eastling Parish Council, comprehensive listings of local news, photographs and contacts can be seen at [www.eastling.info](http://www.eastling.info). Now in its fourth year, the website has attracted over 5,700 visitors. The alternative web address of <http://go.to/eastling> will continue to function as well.

#### New Plans

Swale Council planners have advised that revised plans for conversion of an agricultural barn to a four-bedroom house and a new one-car garage at Divan Court, Eastling have been submitted. Details can be seen at Swale Council offices in Sittingbourne and Faversham; quote SW/03/0877 (case 19884) and SW/03/0878 (listed building consent). Any comments were due to be submitted to the planners by Tuesday, 12 August.

#### Parish Elections in 2004

It has now been confirmed that polling day for the next full elections for Eastling Parish Council will be on Thursday, 10 June 2004. The change from the more usual "first Thursday in May" is to enable any parish polls to be held on the same day as next year's European elections. The later parish election means that, along with other affected parishes, Eastling's annual parish council meeting will have to be held between 14 and 28 June. Also the current chairman, Cllr John Payne, will have the unusual pleasure of serving a 13 month term of office!

#### MOBILE LIBRARY

September sees a major change in the KCC mobile library van service for residents in our local parishes. At Eastling the van will only call at Glebe Cottages on alternate Tuesdays at 10.50-11.05am starting on Tuesday, 2nd September. Use of a larger vehicle means that the stop at Manor Lees is not possible and has been discontinued. For more details, call 07740 183764 or 01622 605227.

## Diary September 2003

4th Puddleducks New Term	9.30am	Champion Hall
4th Afternoon Club (Bingo)	2pm	Champion Hall
5th Club 8 - 13	6.15pm	Champion Hall
8th Eastling Parish Council	8pm	Eastling Village Hall
10th Ospringe Parish Council	7.30pm	Champion Hall
11th History from the Air	7.45pm	Charing Parish Hall
12th FOES Social Evening evening		Eastling School Field
12th Neighbourhood Watch Relaunch	7.45pm	Champion Hall
13th Sponsored Bike Ride	10am - 6pm	Churches throughout Kent
15th Deadline for October Good News to Pinks Farm, Eastling		
15th Gardeners' Club	7.45pm	Sandbanks, Graveney
16th W.I.	2.15pm	Champion Hall
17th Ospringe in Bloom Presentation		Champion Hall
18th Afternoon Club trip to Margate Winter Gardens		
19th Club 8 - 13	6.15pm	Champion Hall
20th Coffee Morning	10am	United Church, Preston St.
27th Plant Sale	10am	Belmont Nurseries
28th Auction of Promises		
30th Magazine Folding	2pm	Usual venues.
OCTOBER 8th Eastling Gardeners' Club Meeting		
11th Autumn Feast	7.15 for 7.30pm	Champion Hall
11th Race Night	7.30pm	Eastling Village Hall
NOVEMBER 8th Fireworks		Ospringe School
8th Autumn Bazaar for Ospringe Church at Alexander Centre.		
15th Show Ospringe Skills	10am - 4pm	Champion Hall
22nd Wine and Wisdom	7.30pm	Eastling Village Hall
DECEMBER 12th Music Theatre		Stalisfield



The fortnightly calls to Otterden and Stalisfield are discontinued. This will probably mean using the nearest libraries in Charing or Lenham. Charing Library is in the Market Place, Charing (telephone 01233 713177) and is open Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.30am-12.30pm and 2pm-5pm; Fridays 2pm-5pm; and Saturdays 9.30am - 12.30pm. Lenham Library is at 11 The Limes, The Square, Lenham (telephone 01622 859140) and opens Tuesdays 9.30am-12.30pm, 2pm-5pm and 5.30pm-7.30pm; Thursdays 9.30am-12.30pm and 2pm-5pm; Fridays 2pm-5pm; and Saturdays 9.30am-12.30pm.

The Painters Forstal call has also been discontinued. The nearest library for residents there is, of course, at Newton Road, Faversham (telephone 01795 532448). Opening times are: Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9.30am-6pm; Thursdays 9.30am-12.30pm; Fridays 9.30am-7pm; and Saturdays 9.30am-4pm.

Anyone who is housebound can request the Home Library Service by contacting 01622 605243..

## FRIENDS OF EASTLING SCHOOL



We do hope you all had a lovely summer holiday, but now it's back to school for the Autumn term on Wednesday 3rd September.

Just to keep you in the summer spirit - we will be holding a Social Evening on Friday 12th September. Parents, friends and children are welcome to join us for a BBQ and music - on the school field if the weather is fine, or in the hall if it rains. Tickets (£2 each) will be available from Monday 8th September from the school office.

Our 'Race Night' (in conjunction with Eastling Village Hall Trustees) will be held in Eastling Village Hall on Saturday 11th October at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5.00 per head and include a superb Ploughman's Supper and your race card (available from Eastling School office). There is a licensed bar or you can bring your own drinks. We hope you'll join us for an exciting evening!

Plans for the Barn Dance later in the term are well underway - more information to follow.

Any enquiries to: Jill Seaman, Publicity  
Tel: 01795 890519

## Barn Dance

About 70 people danced to the Watershed Music Group and had a most enjoyable time. Dancing began promptly at 7.30pm with two sets participating, but after that there was never less than five sets whirling round. Thank you to Watershed and their caller, and to Doris Knowler for the loan of the barn. A teddy bear, raffled during the evening was won by Theresa Connelly from Erith, a regular camper. Winners of the £100 Grand Draw:  
1st - Colin Bailey from Rainham.  
2nd - Jackie Brown from Teynham  
3rd - Dorothy Spillen, Gardeners' Club.

## Having a Party?

### Planning a Wedding?

#### Venue for your Club .....

Hall and smaller rooms available with kitchen facilities at  
**Eastling Village Hall.**

For more information please contact Mary Eagleton on 890436.

## CHARING and DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

On Thursday 11th September Rod LeGear will give a talk on: HISTORY FROM THE AIR. An unconventional way of looking at archaeology.

The presentation will be given in the Parish Hall, Station Road, Charing, at 8pm. Everyone who is interested will be welcomed when the doors open at 7.45pm. Non-members of the society pay £2.

Membership fees are due for the season, Adult: £6, Senior Citizens: £5, Family (3): £10, Full time students: Free. Contact 01233 712035.

## OSPRINGE PARISH COUNCIL

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Wednesday 10th September 2003 at 7.30pm in Whitehill Chapel, Painters Forstal. Members of the public are welcome to attend. The Ospringe-in-Bloom Presentation will take place on Wednesday 17th September in the Champion Hall.

Jill Seaman  
Clerk to the Council

## Meeting of Eastling Gardeners' Club on Wednesday, 8th October

Mrs. Grace Goodman, a National Trust lecturer, will be talking about the garden at Sissinghurst, followed by tapas and wine. Members free, non-members £2.



The archway at Sissinghurst, opened up in 1931. Photos from Sissinghurst website <[www.invectis.co.uk/sissing](http://www.invectis.co.uk/sissing)> by Dave Parker

## Sunday 19th October Marcus Braybrooke comes to Stalisfield

Well known speaker, author and leader of numerous interfaith organisations and activities. More details next month.

# SEPTEMBER



2003

## PUDDLEDUCKS PLAYGROUP

Don't forget that our Autumn Term starts on Thursday 4th September at 9.30am. We have vacancies for children aged 2 1/2 to 5 years on most mornings, although we welcome any accompanied children from 2 years. A reminder that the fees are now £3.50 per session. Please phone for further information.

Jill Seaman, 01795 890519.

New Season starts  
14th September  
**Sunday Newstyle**  
10.30am in Eastling Church.  
A fresh look at the  
**Ten Commandments**  
Join us for breakfast from 10am  
\*Childrens corner\*  
All welcome

## Wine and Wisdom

Saturday 22nd November, Eastling Village Hall, 7.30pm. Tables of six at £4.00 per person can be booked by phoning Norman on 890242. Proceeds to Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch and village hall funds.

## Experienced Baby-Sitter available.

I have been working with children of varying abilities for the last two years during weekends and holidays for 'Kids' - a charitable organisation. I have spent time as a classroom assistant at a local primary school and in September I will be going to Christ Church College to study for a Degree in Primary Education. I enjoy looking after children; my experience is with three to eight year olds. I can sometimes also offer "house sitting" or "animal sitting".

Please phone 533819 and ask for Steven.

Rates to be agreed.

## Afternoon Club

Due to a lack of interest the trip to Kew was cancelled and replaced by a day at Eastbourne.

Activities for September

Sept. 4th Bingo

Sept. 18th "Winter Gardens",

Margate

Rodney French.

## SHOW OSPRINGE SKILLS

This will take place on Saturday 15th November between 10am and 4pm in the Champion Hall. There is still space for one or two more exhibits.

Small charge for refreshments. One or two stalls. Do come and see what other people can do. Free entrance.

## Painter's Forstal Gardeners' Club

Thank you, John and Ruth, for a very enjoyable evening - what a lovely garden you have.

The September meeting is on Monday 15th, when we all meet at Sandbanks, Graveney, 7pm, for a talk on Strawberries. Directions from Noreen and numbers please, by 12th.

Further details from Fav. 533608.

## Painter's Forstal with Ospringe W.I.

The September meeting on 16th will start at 2.15pm in the Champion hall. New members welcome; phone 532756 for details, or just come along on 16th.

Talk: Collecting antique jewellery by Miss Ellis.

Competition: A Bracelet plus Flower of the Month

The W.I. will be holding a **Coffee Morning and stalls**

at Preston Street, United Church from 10am to 12 noon on Saturday 20th September.

## Keep Daniel Smiling

The Alma, Painter's Forstal Auction of Promises

for Daniel Feakins  
Sunday 28th September  
Please support.

For further information ring 01795 533835.

The coffee morning for Daniel at the United Church raised £844. Thank you to everybody who came and contributed.

## 'Bamako Station. The Heart of Darkness.'

So wrote Michael Palin about the capital of Mali in west Africa. His experience improved, but Mali is still one of the poorest and driest countries in the world. More than half the population lack access to clean, safe water, and regular droughts often lead to serious food shortages.

Here, Christian Aid supports the Pel and Segué Missions and APH Bandiagara, church-based organisations working with local people to bring clean water to this arid area. Djibril Kéné explains how they built a well in his village of Konsogou-do:

'We started by breaking stones and gathering gravel and sand. APH sent a mason and some miners with cement and iron. The villagers did all the manual labour and the whole process took three years. When it was finished... we organised a party. It was a time of great joy. We saw an immediate impact. We had enough water and there were no more illnesses like guinea worm. And we all started growing things.'



A small dam funded by Christian Aid has brought the desert to life in Mali. The irrigation project has enabled Mamadou Kéné to begin growing onions and other vegetables. Photo: Christian Aid / Fabienne Fosse Water for life / 08.03

In nearby Segué Plaine, which also now has a well, Albertine Somboro recalls: 'Before it would take us a minimum of an hour to get two litres of water. Now we don't have to go so far, we have been able to increase the crops and vegetables that we grow. We can earn more money to look after our children.'

To date, the Pel Mission has built over 500 concrete wells, transforming the lives of over 80,000 people. Christian Aid has also funded the building of small dams, which save the precious water that falls in Mali's rainy season, for irrigation all year round, transforming desert into fertile green vegetable patches.

Mamadou Kéné explains: 'People are growing onions, potatoes, carrots, sweet potatoes and aubergines. We didn't have many animals before as there wasn't enough water for them, but now we have plenty of sheep and goats.'

It costs just £24 a year for villagers to maintain this small dam, but it has transformed their lives. As Mamadou Kéné says, 'Since the well and the dam were built we have only had success.'

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