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February 2021
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THE TRIDENT

Published on behalf of the Anglican Churches
of Eynsford, Farningham and Lullingstone
by the PCC of St Martin's Eynsford
www.efl-churches.org

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Please contact John Friend (details on page 3)

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Please keep articles to 400 words,
one page, and sign them as
anonymous items will not be
published

Copy by the

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For the next issue
please

**Cover photos (portrait format)
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Further copies can usually be obtained from the Newsagents or the
Butchers in Eynsford and Wadard Books in Farningham.
We thank those who have chosen to pay for advertising space in this
magazine, however we cannot guarantee the accuracy of any statement,
nor any of the products or services advertised.

From the Editor

Another year, another lockdown, so this issue will be online only. I hope that you are all staying safe and warm. It's not so much fun being stuck at home when its cold and wet outside. However, hopefully our older residents will be receiving their vaccinations soon and can start to see the end of this situation.

I working on improving the information at the back of Trident. I managed to get an update from Braeside Surgery so their details are now correct. I have removed the 'What's On' section for now while I am updating it and I hope to combine groups with their contact numbers in one place. If you run a group/club or class in Eynsford or Farningham, please send me details to efltrident@yahoo.com including day/time/venue/contact number/email. Thank you.

I have been trying to get out into the countryside when the rain and mud allow to enjoy our natural surroundings. Like many others, I have children at home doing lessons online. I am lucky that they are at a stage where I don't have to do any teaching myself!

Through my work with the parish council I have been involved in the work of the Green Team trying to find ways in which we can reduce waste, reduce carbon emissions and improve carbon capture and biodiversity. I have also been in a group looking at crime and anit-social behaviour in our village, which was highlighted during the first lockdown. You will find articles on both in this issue.

Thank you to our advertisers for continuing to support this magazine. Do let them know you found them in Trident if you get in touch. We are lucky to have such a range of services available right on our doorstep! We give out best wishes to Dave Sheaf who is retiring /laying down his digger/ this year. He has advertised in Trident for many years.

Thank you as ever to all our volunteers and others working behind the scenes in our villages to improve the lives of others.

Until next time,
Holly Ivaldi
Editor

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For baptisms, weddings, funerals and churchyard please contact the
Associate Rector

**Services for the Benefice of Eynsford, Farningham
and Lullingstone**

Eynsford

8.00 am

A quiet, reflective communion service on -1st and 3rd Sundays

9.30 am

All Age Communion with Sunday School

Farningham

11.00 am

Morning worship on 1st & 3rd Sundays
2nd & 4th Sundays, Holy Communion
children's activities during the communion service.

Lullingstone

11.00 am

A traditional service using the Book of Common Prayer
Holy Communion on the 3rd Sunday
Sunday School during the Service on the 4th Sunday

Joint service in the Benefice when there is a 5th Sunday in the
month.

Mid-week services

Wednesdays - Morning Prayer with Litany in Lullingstone; 9.30am

Friday - Communion in Eynsford; 9.30am

From the Ministry Team

As I sat looking at the garden this morning I realised that we are coming to the time of year where we see hopeful signs of Spring and yet listening to the weather forecast I know that Winter could still have a sting in its tail. At the same time, we are all still unsure about the future too. Brexit is over but there are still uncertainties, there is the global economy and the situation in America. We believe that lockdown is beginning to have an effect and we are all looking forward to receiving our vaccine. So we try to look positively to the future and yet we are not sure if there might be further bad news round the corner.

How then do we approach life with all its uncertainties? We could take a lead from Celtic Christianity which closely followed the rhythms and seasons of natural life especially the seasonal year. Just as we know that following the harshness of Winter there follows new life of Spring and there is the daily reminder that as one day ends and night draws in, it will be followed by a new dawn and a new day.

Much imagery in the Bible draws on these natural cycles of life which remind us that there is the promise of new life and that God is the author and sustainer of all life. What we see here is merely a foreshadow of the eternal life that God has in store for us. We are also encouraged and admonished by Paul in the book of Timothy in the Bible to pray for those in authority so that we might 'lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.' So let us remember, in prayer, our own politicians and people in all the services that care for our community especially at this time and let us pray for those in our neighbouring countries for cooperation and peaceful community across the world. Let us remember before God those who have no home through poverty or persecution in the British Isles and further abroad and pray for the agencies who seek to help them.

We can also remember the words of the English mystic, Julian of Norwich, 'God loved us before he made us; and his love has never diminished and never shall' and 'all shall be well, all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.'

So let us look forward with confidence in the knowledge that God never leaves us but accompanies us through all of our life's journey (whether we are aware of God or not). And let this inspire us to encourage and support each other and have a concern for those further afield who need our support and prayers.

As a ministry team, we pray that God will bless you with His peace and an awareness of His Presence in the weeks and months ahead whatever they might have in store.

Peter Davis

News from Church

Sunday Services

Suspension of in person Worship

With the introduction of Tier 4 (and now a national lockdown), rising infection rates in our area and news of a more infectious variant of the virus the Rector and the three PCCs of the Benefice have taken the decision to petition the Bishop to suspend in person worship from 27th December until the beginning of February. This has been an extremely difficult decision for us to make and will be disappointing for many of you but at this time the safety of all of us is incredibly important. We will review the situation in the New Year and will resume public worship in our churches as soon as it is safe to do so.

YouTube Online Service

We are still recording an online service each week, with the YouTube link given in our weekly newsletter, on our website and on Facebook (on the Sunday morning).

Zoom Service of the Word – Sundays at 10am

A live Zoom Service of the Word is now up and running and will be continuing for the foreseeable future. If you would like to join in with this service on Sundays at 10am, please contact Peter Sansom on 07941 432988 petersansomuk@yahoo.co.uk

Because the situation is changing continuously at the moment please watch our website and Facebook page for notice about services during Lent.

Home Groups and Lent

Our home groups are continuing to meet via Zoom. If you'd be interested in learning more about the Bible, praying and sharing fellowship with one another, please email Tina eflooffice3@gmail.com to find out more about joining a home group.

Lent falls early in the calendar this year, beginning on Ash Wednesday, 17th February.

Because of the Covid-19 restrictions in place, we will not be able to meet personally, so will be meeting on Zoom within our home groups.

It would be wonderful to see as many people as possible joining groups for Lent this year. We will be following last year's Church of England Lent course, 'Live for Lent: Care for God's Creation,' which was inspired and informed by the Archbishop of Canterbury's 2020 Lent Book, 'Saying Yes to Life' by Ruth Valerio. The weekly themes follow those of the days of creation described in the first chapter of Genesis.

We will meet weekly during the six weeks of Lent – dates and groups to be

confirmed soon.

If you aren't already in one of the home groups and would be interested in joining for Lent, please contact Tina eflooffice3@gmail.com

Revive

Our youth group Revive continues to meet weekly via Zoom on Wednesday evenings between 5 and 6pm. The young people, aged 11 to 16 years, regularly attend and are studying the Emmaus Course.

Prayer

Benefice Monthly Prayer Meeting

The next Benefice monthly prayer meeting will be via Zoom on Monday 8th February at 7.30pm. An invitation to join this meeting will be sent nearer the time. If you don't receive an email and would like to join, please email Tina at the office eflooffice3@gmail.com

Prayer during the Day - Thursdays and Saturdays at 12 noon

We are continuing with Prayer during the Day to give people the opportunity to meet together twice a week (Thursdays and Saturdays at 12 noon) via Zoom to spend time together with God. All are very welcome to join when you can (you will need a Zoom invitation). If you would like to be part of these prayer events and haven't received a Zoom invitation please contact the benefice office at eflooffice3@gmail.com

Prayer Ministry

The Prayer Ministry Team are happy to pray for anyone who would like prayer and perhaps would normally receive ministry during Communion services. Members of the team can offer personal prayer over the phone or via Zoom as well. Please contact Tina via email eflooffice3@gmail.com if you have a prayer request and the team will pray for you.

Tina Watson

St Martin's - Eco Church!

Bee happy!

I know several people in Eynsford who keep bees, and I'm sure there are others in our three villages. The honey that bees produce in their hives has been valued for thousands of years. It is a rich food and also has healing properties. Perhaps most important is that bees pollinate about 70% of the food we grow. Today, however, pure, natural honey is under threat. So much honey is adulterated with other products like rice or artificial sweeteners; it may have been boiled to keep it runny, consequently removing its health-giving properties; and it may be the

product of more than one country. It means we can now buy a jar of ‘honey’ really cheaply, and this is pushing down the price for poor farmers in developing countries. This discourages bee-keeping, and the reduction in pollination has an impact on food production.

What can we do about it? We can try whenever possible to buy our honey from local hobbyist beekeepers. This will encourage them to continue with this fascinating hobby and the honey we buy will contain nutritious trace elements. Locally bought honey may also help to treat allergies such as hay-fever if taken over a long period. We can avoid buying cheap, low-quality honey. We should read the packaging information carefully to see where the honey comes from and if it is 100% natural. I recently saw two jars of honey on a supermarket shelf that looked very similar, being sold under the same name. One cost about £2, the other about £4. The more expensive jar contained ‘organic honey’, was certified by the Soil Association, and had a logo: ‘Protecting bees and beekeepers. Hives for lives.’

We can also grow a wide variety of flowers in our gardens to provide pollen and nectar for the bees for much of the year. The best varieties are open flowers for easy access; and bees are also drawn to purple flowers. Most bees hibernate in the coldest winter months and need food when they emerge in the spring. So why not plant spring bulbs, such as crocuses, grape hyacinths and alliums, which between them should flower from late February to late May.

My attention was drawn to this problem in an article in the Autumn 2020 magazine of a charity I support, called Shared Interest. This charity enables people to invest money to support Fairtrade projects around the world. Shared Interest currently works with six Fairtrade honey organisations in Latin America and Africa. It knows that working with bee-keepers is in everyone’s interest.
Jan Thompson (for St. Martin’s Eco Church)

If you have been married or have been involved in a baptism or funeral in the benefice, we would love to include a report in a future issue.
Send any information to efltrident@yahoo.com

St Martin’s Churchyard

Several people have grassed over the graves of family members, thus enabling the groundsmen to cut the grass regularly. It is beginning to look so much better, cared for and loved in St Martin’s Churchyard. Please consider whether you could make it easier for others to care for and maintain yours in the years to come. If you would like advice and help to organise, level and grass it, please contact the Benefice office 863050, or email efloffice3@gmail.com

Dear Friends ,

At the time of writing we appear to be in the eye of a perfect storm . Christmas and new year celebrations combining with a new mutated and more virulent strain of Covid 19 leading to a greatly increased “R” rate , hospitalizations and very sadly deaths. A challenging time for us all . On a positive note it does appear that the vaccination program is picking up a pace and that we can see an end to the current Tier 5 lockdown .



Sharing God's Love

Whilst government guidelines still allow for communal acts of worship we have taken the decision to temporarily suspend all “ Face to Face” DVCC meetings and to review the situation again on the 7th February .

In the meantime DVCC offers many other online activities and a socially distanced prayer walk in pairs that you are most welcome to join :

- Monday morning : 10.30am – Angela’s homegroup
- Tuesday morning : 10.30am – Bible Study – currently looking at Ephesians
- Tuesday afternoon : socially distanced prayer walking
- Tuesday evening : 8.00pm – Boddingtons homegroup
- Wednesday evening 8.00pm – prayer meeting
- Sunday 10.30am – Sunday service

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to join any of these weekly events .

You can see more by looking at our website : www.DVCC.online

We would also like to offer you the opportunity of prayer support , we have a great team of prayers who are ready and waiting . Feel free to contact me by phone or email with your requests.

Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and pleading with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Every Blessing

Adrian Elms, Pastor Tel : 07908 045445

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Love

Love is the most important gift God has given mankind. The bible also makes it clear that God is love. We don't see God but he commmands us to love him and our neighbours.

Matthew 22 v 37-38

....You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart , with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it. You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

We can't love God who we don't see if we don't love our neighbours who we see.

Characteristics of love according to the book of 1 Corinthians 13

Love suffers long and is kind
Love doesn't parade itself nor is it puffed up
Love doesn't not behave rudely
Love doesn't seek it's own
Love is not provoked
Love thinks no evil
Love doesn't rejoice in iniquity
Love rejoices in the truth
Love bears all things
Love hopes and endures all things
Love never fails.

Christians are empowered to love by accepting the love of Jesus christ who died for us. God's love is unconditional for he loves the whole world including you. Please join our Zoom meeting on Sunday at 11am. Meeting id 769 9492 4852 qQ4ESg to learn more of God's love for us

Are you over 65 and need help with digital technology?
Please register your interest with us.

EYNSFORD BAPTIST CHURCH

Although the end of the Covid pandemic is in sight, things are set to get worse before they get better. There's a well-known verse from the Psalms which is extremely relevant for the times in which we live.



God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear,

though the earth give-way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,

though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

Psalm 46:1-3

Those who seek to walk in God's ways can be confident that he is there to help in times of trouble. The Psalmist speaks of his decision not to fear when mountains quake and seas roar. At such times, God will be a source of strength, a refuge and ever-present help.

His help comes in a variety of forms. Sometimes he sends someone to us with helpful advice and encouragement. Sometimes he sends someone to provide practical help. Sometimes his invisible hand of providence causes our circumstances to change. Sometimes he gives us wisdom and savvy to take measures ourselves.

Christians are not exempt from sufferings, challenges and danger. God does not always intervene to *remove* troubles. Sometimes he gives us special help to keep going and to persevere. This is uncomfortable and often painful. The psalmist declares that God is ever-present and that is true even if we do not *feel* it, indeed especially when we do not feel it. At these times he is at work behind the scenes and it only becomes clearer later what was going on.

Biblical faith is not primarily about what we believe but about trust in a person who is all knowing, all powerful and all loving and who has the final say in what happens to his creation.

At Eynsford Baptist Church, we think we can see where things are heading for us, and it will be good. But it is going to be a while longer before we see our church building used once more for regular worship and community activities. Meanwhile we trust God who is our ever-present help and we will not fear.

Chris Moffett



FARNINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL -

Clerk to the Council: Mrs A. Barlow.

Phone: 07375 062428 email: clerk@farninghamparishcouncil.org

Web: www.farninghamparishcouncil.org

Farningham Parish Council met via a video link on Wednesday, 13th January 2021, and present were six parish councillors (including Sevenoaks District Councillor Philip McGarvey), Kent County Councillor Roger Gough and the Clerk Amanda Barlow.

Covid Vaccination Centres:

An internet link is available for the latest news on the vaccination programme for COVID-19 virus and this is www.kentandmedwayccg.nhs.uk Sevenoaks District Council Health and Communities Manager Kelly Webb issues regular updates on the pandemic and we will continue to post these on our Facebook page. For those without internet access, Kelly Webb can be contacted by telephone, 01732 227474.

Electric Vehicle Charging point:

The Parish Council's proposal to take advantage of a KCC grant for the installation of an Electric Vehicle charging point was discussed again. The grant is dependent upon the installation being placed on community land, and we proposed that the installation be in the car park belonging to Farningham Parish Council at Farningham Village Hall. We polled all Parishioners on our circulation list last September and a significant majority of respondents were in favour of the project. The Village Hall Committee is unfortunately not in favour, however, and very reluctantly therefore we feel it inappropriate to continue with the project. We will however continue to look for future similar opportunities that may be viable.

Council tax:

As indicated at our last meeting, there will be no increase in the parish council share of Council Tax for 2021/22 and a Band D household will remain unchanged at £70.17 each.

Updates from Kent County Council:

KCC, with considerable support from Army Logistics, have been able to make impressive strides into a programme to test people across the county who may be asymptomatic with the COVID-19 virus. Over 50,000 people had been tested by the second week in January, an average of 17,000 a week. Recent heavy rain had put pressure on the newly installed flood prevention scheme in Eynsford Road and Cllr Gough confirmed the continued huge improvement. While the proposed traffic survey in the High Street has been de-

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layed until the end of February we continue to consider our options to try and slow the traffic through this area and into London Road.

Frequent updates:

If you would like more frequent updates from Farningham Parish Council they are available on Facebook, Twitter or by email. To receive email updates, please complete the sign up box at the foot of the home page

www.farninghamparishcouncil.org

The Facebook link is www.facebook.com/farninghampc and Twitter @FarninghamPC

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, 3rd February, 2021, 7pm on Zoom. The Zoom information is included on the Agenda on the website or please contact the Clerk for details.

Cllr. Carol Salmon

Eynsford and Farningham Ladies' Probus

A few weeks ago I think we were all looking forward to 2021 being when life was beginning to get back to some sort of normality. Unfortunately at the moment this is not to be. Let's hope it is not too long before we will be able to meet, enjoy a convivial lunch and listen to interesting speakers. So we continue to take care of ourselves staying at home as much as possible. The Ocado van keeps delivering. The milkman delivers in the middle of the night. The 'Cornish Fishmonger' brings me delicious seafood from Cornwall. Farningham butcher supplies excellent meat. There is a yoga class via zoom in my living room. I remain healthy and long may that last. A vaccination should happen soon.

So I shall continue to think positively and hope that by next month there will be more positive news to report.

Gill Govus

Denis Standing

It was with great sadness that we learned of the recent death of one of our longest serving members Denis Standing. He joined Farningham and Darent Valley Probus Club in 1992 and was Treasurer from 1999 until 2015, a role he performed most diligently. He was a great raconteur, an exceptionally popular member of the club and always willing to support events. He will be very greatly missed at our meetings.

Our sincerest condolences go to Sheila and all the family.

Phil Elliman Hon.Sec. F&DV Probus Club

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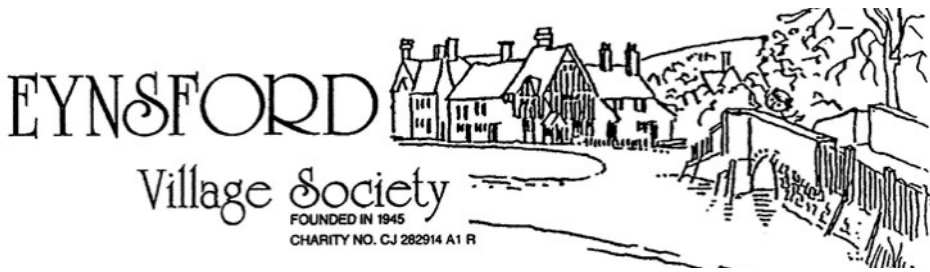
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Happy New Year to everyone from the EVS Committee which we hope it can and will be though I doubt it will feel particularly reliable until vaccines are accepted as safe and trusted particularly with Covid-19 now evolving mutations itself to survive. Braeside surgery has told me jabs of the first, Pfizer vaccine need to be kept in serious cold storage and so can only done at a hospital; there is more hope for the newer Oxford/AZ brand which will be done at a local hub, maybe in Swanley, but have no idea when that might begin; NHS powers dictate, just to add to the chaos and uncertainty we could do without; some of us may know better as I believe one or two have had theirs already. The strict timetable of process seems to apply and we can take some comfort from the fact that we have each been graded as to where we each fit in (eg I am in batch 4); we will all get a letter when its our turn. I wonder when the full programme will have been rolled out, and whether we are locked down in Tier 5 for the long haul pending some certainty. How long will it take to achieve “herd immunity” when we might all feel more like breathing a sigh of relief, or breathing at all? One thing seems certain, that it will all take much longer than we expect or are being led to expect.

Does the race between infection and injection need to be global to be fully effective? Given protection from some of the diseases we take for granted are still not wholly eradicated worldwide (eg polio, TB) perhaps it is inevitable eventually that the more affluent and sophisticated western world will look after its own to ensure survival to manage a much needed economic recovery. Perhaps we should be taking bets on when any of the village clubs, societies and pastimes will be open again; no time soon is mine.

Nevertheless, life goes on and these are the important EVS dates for your brand, spanking new, empty 2021 diaries:

- Friday March 19thAGM.....730 Eynsford Village Hall
 - Friday December 17th.....Xmas Quiz 730 Eynsford Village Hall.
- Any adjustments needed will be advised.

Keep the faith, stay safe and well; and count your blessings.

Sally Coston, Chair (866102/sally.coston@btinternet.com)

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The Discussion on CCTV in Eynsford

During last year when we had periods of lockdown, Riverside saw an increased number of people who gathered to enjoy the sunshine and river. This, unfortunately, led to some incidents of antisocial behaviour and other misdemeanours which, understandably, caused concern to some residents within Eynsford.

An option was put forward to the Council for consideration of installing CCTV on Riverside and this led to a working party looking into the merits of installing such a system. Information considered included crime data from Police; cost of installing and maintaining such a system; the benefits that this could have to residents; and the wider picture of safety in the village.

We looked at crime statistics over the last three years across the whole village and it revealed that although during a very short time this year, within the first lockdown, where there was an increase in antisocial behaviour at Riverside, crime in that area is very low. Crime figures showed that generally, offences are committed across the whole village and to cover all areas with CCTV would be a cost that would be extensive to the Parish Council. A concentration of crime around the Eynsford Station area and cameras are already in place at the station and are used, when required, to investigate crimes.

Considering the data, the costs and the benefits to residents from installing a system on Riverside, a decision has been reached not to go forward with CCTV.

However, the wider issue of crime in the village has been considered. Information was sought from residents, who fed into the working group, around their concerns and these included:

- Littering throughout the village
- Antisocial behaviour
- Lack of public toilets
- Use of disposable BBQ's charring land and causing smoke
- Parking along the road at Riverside causing traffic problems
- Lack of social distancing across the village
- Use of the water for Horses being walked and 4x4 vehicles

The working group are now taking forward the following recommendations to help towards the safety and wellbeing of residents of Eynsford:

- The development of a robust crime awareness programme. Working with the Police the group will be developing information and guidance for the appropriate reporting of crime to ensure figures are up to date and trends highlighted. This way evidence can be recorded and used to improve policing in the vil-

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lage. This will be advertised through the village using signs and our usual publicity routes.

- An extra bin has been placed on Riverside. Along with this, there are further enquiries on possible recycling/black sack bins to be installed in various places in the village as we have seen an increase of rubbish around the village, especially that which can be recycled
- A contingency plan is being developed that will look at possible reoccurrences of incidents if there are future increased number of visitors to the village. These include public toilets and signage to inform visitors on local bylaws and government restrictions
- Parking on Riverside is in discussion to provide restrictions to park and quicker penalties being applied

We are so grateful to the wonderful spirit of the village during what has been a very difficult year and to Lizzie and her team at The Riverside Tea Rooms providing portable toilets. As we take the work forward, we would like to hear from you if you have any comments, ideas or information that can help us. Please email the clerks on info@eysnsfordparishcouncil.org.

Ferne Haxby, Chair of Community and Environment, EPC

ACE

It is heartening to know that with all that has happened in 2020, Covid in particular we still have good friends in Camphin who want to keep in touch and meet as soon as possible.



Here is the mail I received from Bruno just before Christmas :-

*My dearest friends, (and all the "Eysnsfordians" whose names I don't know)
The containment and the security required under these circumstances did not allow us to circulate the Christmas card that we like to send you to tell you that we are thinking of you. And if at random we come across people from the Association, all of us ask if we have any information about Eysnsford. The circumstances we know on both sides of the Channel are very similar and speaking of the virus or Brexit, only one thing is certain, we can but wish ourselves better days and that 2021 finally gives us the opportunity to meet again.
The Friends of Camphin*

Let's hope it will not be long before we can make plans for to meet. Bruno shares all our hopes for 'better days' in 2021.

Gill Govus Chair ACE

Eynsford Parish Council

The Parish Office, Priory Lane, Eynsford DA4 0AY
01322 865320, info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk

Eynsford Parish Office is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Please telephone first to ensure someone is there.



With lockdown back in force, to help stop the spread of Covid-19, the Parish Council are still conducting Zoom meetings twice a month discussing Planning applications, Highways, Recreation and Community & Environment matters.

The Council has recently reviewed the road markings and signage around the Bower Lane/High Street junction to see what ideas we could put forward to Kent Highways to make this junction safer. It was found that the road markings are extremely worn, causing some drivers to drive down the wrong side Bower Lane at the bottom. As a result, the Council have requested Kent Highways re-instate all the white road markings around the junction.

The Parish Council continues to work with volunteers from Eynsford & Farningham who provide help and support to vulnerable residents shielding or self-isolating. We offer our thanks to everyone involved for their kindness, hard work and dedication.

I had hoped that 2021 would bring back some sense of normality, but alas that is not the case. In January, it was announced that Sevenoaks had the 4th highest rate of Covid-19 infection in Kent. I'm hoping that by the time this goes to print the figures will have improved significantly and that many more residents will have received the vaccination that should finally help turn the tide.

With the opening of the 'no symptom' testing centre at Swanley, more people will have the opportunity to be tested. Those that are asymptomatic but do test positive, knowing they are carriers and can self-isolate protecting others. Together we can beat this.

We recently received a letter from a Brownie from Eynsford & Farningham Brownies, asking if recycling bins could be installed throughout the village. Previous requests to Sevenoaks District Council have been unsuccessful, supporting their poor record on recycling, however, our Green Team are working towards a greener Eynsford, so with the help of inspired young people like our brownie friends, we will approach Sevenoaks again to convince them of the urgent need for these services.

Sevenoaks District Council recently announced, as part of the normal planning consultation process, they will no longer be sending us hard copies for most

planning applications. From January, Councillors will need to review applications digitally, and although this will mean investing in some new technology, we recognise there will be a green benefit in reducing paperwork.

During this period of lockdown, the Parish Office is closed to visitors. To contact the clerks please e-mail info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk or alternatively, telephone on 01322 865320. If we can't take your call at the time, please leave a message and we promise to get back to you as soon as possible.

Naomi Morgan Deputy Clerk

Anthony Roper Pre-School

As I write this article, the current situation in education is that all schools (both secondary and primary), colleges, universities and other education establishments are closed to all children, except for those who are deemed vulnerable or the children of critical workers. The only exception to this is the Early Years sector, who provide education and care to the youngest members of our society.

Anthony Roper Pre-school is a long-established, community-based, charitable organisation who have provided education and care to many local families over almost 50 years. We have faced many challenges in that time but the current one is completely unprecedented. Whilst we remain open to all children, many families, quite sensibly, have decided to keep their children at home during the first part of this year. This act will help to reduce the transmission of the virus, help keep the children, their families, the wider community, and our amazing team of Early Years Educators, as safe as possible at this extremely difficult time. The reduction in children attending does, however, have a dramatic effect on our income due to the Government's stance on returning our funding stream to 'normal', i.e. only being able to claim funding for those children in attendance during 'headcount' week – a week when many children are at home as their families are following the Government guidance of 'stay at home, protect the NHS, save lives'.

We continue to deliver quality education and care to those children who are still attending, and I cannot thank our team of Early Years Educators enough for their diligence, good humour, resilience, and general loveliness, as they continue to provide the best possible start to our young children's education story.

Thank you.

Samantha Aitchison/Donna Gifford
Joint Childcare Managers, Anthony Roper Pre-school and Kindergarten CIO

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Farningham and Eynsford Local History Society

A very Happy New Year to everyone and hope for a much better year in 2021. While it looks as though it will be a slow return to something like normal life, we hope that we will be able to meet face to face at some time in the coming year. In the meantime, we have our first **Zoom meeting** arranged for Friday 12 February 2021. The subject is **Church Graffiti**. Wayne Perkins will show images of graffiti he has found in Farningham, Eynsford, and Lullingstone Churches, and explain their significance. FELHS members will be sent the Zoom link via email before the night and the talk is free of charge. Guest are welcome (£3 charge) please contact archives@felhs.org.uk for payment and to be given the link

50th Anniversary:

Pondering on how things can change in less than a life time, it is worth reflecting that in the year that the United Kingdom is leaving the European Union, it can also commemorate fifty years since it joined the then European Economic Union in 1971! It is also fifty years since U.K. adopted a fully decimal currency. In 1968 the 5p and 10p coins were introduced, followed by the 50p coin in 1969. Finally, on 15 February 1971, Decimal Day, the 0.5p, 1p and 2p coins entered into circulation. One old coin lingered on until 1980 because of a public campaign to keep it - that was the sixpence (worth 2.5p). - Dr Susan Pittman

Please visit our Facebook page, @felhs.1985, and 'like' it to receive the updates. We will be able to keep you informed of any Society news. If you have any suggestions of items that you would like to see on the page please email us at info@felhs.org.uk

Our Centre at Riverside remains closed to visitors but enquiries are always welcome by emailing archives@felhs.org.uk Our website, www.felhs.org.uk, contains information about the Society and past bulletins which have many interesting articles. There is also a list of our publications which can be ordered by emailing the above address.

Helen Smith

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How to take part:

1. **Pick a time** You can choose any hour between 29 and 31 January. So whether you're an early bird or a night owl, you can still take part.
2. **Tell us what you see** Count the birds you see in your garden or from your balcony*. Ignore any birds that are still in flight. To avoid double-counting, just record the highest number of each bird species you see at any one time – not a running total. *This year our advice is to take part in the safety of your own home. This could include a birdwatch from your window if you overlook a green space or courtyard.
3. **Submit your results** Online: You can submit your results online at rspb.org.uk/birdwatch from 29 January until 19 February. By post: If you'd rather send your results by post, you can download a submission form. Please post your results before 15 February.

Every count is important so, if you don't see anything, please still submit your result. Finding out which birds don't visit your area is as important as understanding those which do!

See our website for printable bird ID sheets to help you, or posters you can display to show you're taking part.

Thanks to people like you taking part in the Big Garden Birdwatch, we now have over 40 years of data and this has helped increase our understanding of the challenges faced by wildlife.

What do birds eat?

There are lots of different bird foods available, including mixes for bird feeders and bird tables, as well as for ground feeding:

- Blackbirds mostly feed on the ground and will eat anything – from fatty nibbles to mealworms
- Blue tits and great tits use a feeder, eating seeds as well as suet and peanuts
- Finches, including chaffinches and greenfinches, use both a feeder and a bird table, and they love sunflower hearts
- Look for good quality bird food – those that don't include 'fillers' such as dried peas and beans that birds rarely eat. You'll find some great mixes in our shop
- You can put out leftovers such as some bread, fruit cake, dried fruit, unsalted nuts, or fruit such as apples and pears. Don't use anything mouldy or salty though, and if you have a dog don't put out dried fruit – vine fruits such as raisins can be toxic to them.

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History Corner - Jan Wilkes

The Parish Magazine continues to be a source village information. Over 100 years ago the magazine was full of articles about far flung places, gardening tips, recipes, poems, quizzes, short stories and of course information about the village, sometimes very blunt and to the point. The following are from the Farningham magazine.

October 1895 – In the present day it is considered a compliment to be asked to stand sponsor for a child at its baptism; but from the following entry in 1752 it appears that on one occasion a fee was necessary: ‘Paid Godfather and Godmother that stood for Mary Stansbury’s child 2s.’ Not only did the parish provide Godfathers and Godmothers but sometimes Overseers interested themselves in matrimonial affairs, as in 1810 they paid 9s. for a gold wedding ring for a woman whom it was desirable to get married, and the Vestry paid the costs of the wedding.

July 1901 – The vicar has thought well to suspend for a while the Catechising (*to teach the principals of Christian dogma, discipline, and ethics by means of questions and answers*) in the Church on Sunday afternoon, and instead to take the children in schools. He is sorry to have to say that he has been led to this change by the sad irreverence of the children at the services. The cause of this irreverence he little doubts, springs from the habitual absence of parents from all and every of the Church’s Services, thus setting their children no example of the sacredness of God’s House or Day, from the growing want of parental control.

And lastly piece taken from the Vicar’s letter in May magazine 1896, after he had been on holiday on the shores of the Mediterranean. ‘We saw many beautiful places, and passed through some grand old cities, which possessed many attractions, but on returning home to the Vicarage and seeing the green fields around and the trees budding forth in all the freshness of spring, and above all the dear old Church of Eynsford, we felt we had visited no place in which we would prefer to live than in our own village and amongst our own people.’



The Pocock family who lived in Farningham



Vicar Abraham S
Hutchinson (1890-1904)

Eynsford Green Team Survey Response



Thank you

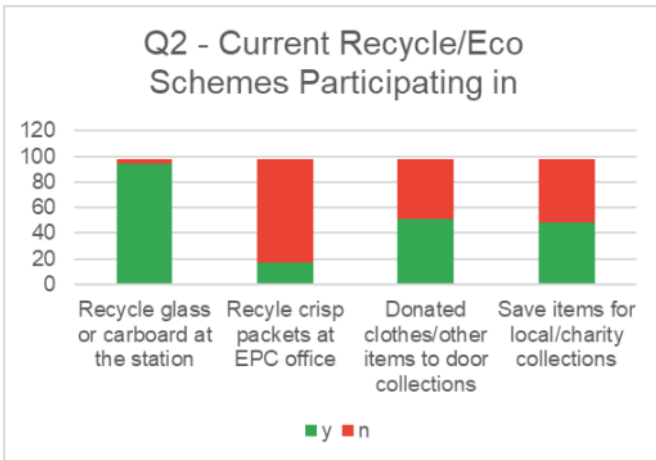
Many thanks to all those residents who completed our survey, “How Can Eynsford Be Greener”. We carried out the survey to canvass local opinion, to find out what residents would like us to do and help us decide which environmental schemes we should implement.

We received 98 responses (online and paper), which equates to about 12% of households in the parish. This is an encouraging response and 72% of those respondents stated that they felt it was “very important” that Eynsford Parish Council/EGT tries to tackle environmental issues within the parish.



Recycling

From analysing what we currently recycle as a village we are doing well on glass and clothes. We are looking at ways we can facilitate more recycling within the village. We will contact and lobby Sevenoaks District Council on improving recycling options throughout the whole district.



Ideas and suggestions

We had lots of positive responses to our suggestions. 85% of respondents wanted to see more bee and wildlife planting on parish council land. We are already implementing wildlife planting and are aiming to launch a wildflower pot/hanging basket initiative for everyone to get involved with this spring, details to follow next month.

70% of respondents would like more recycling points in the village for different items and as mentioned above we will work on this.

We were thrilled to hear residents' comments/ideas, and these included the following:

- Recycle bins next to existing rubbish bins for visiting public to recycle litter
- Communal compost bins
- Co-operative for bulk purchase of electricity
- Hydro power from the river

We will review all the suggestions put forward.

Electric cars and charging points

We had an interesting response to the electric car question with 45% of respondents stating that they already own an electric car or within the next 5 years they plan to buy one. Of those that do or plan to have an electric car, 20% would not be able to charge on their own property, therefore many villagers will need access to a public charge point. As there is a developing need for public charge points EGT are reviewing possible locations and investigating the available grants. After 2030 all new cars will have to be electric and EGT will help the village prepare for this.

Renewable Energy

Whilst not everyone was keen on the idea of a community solar panel field or a wind turbine the Government has committed to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. As part of this commitment, the Government have set up the Rural Community Energy Fund, which is a £10 million programme to support rural communities in England to develop renewable energy projects. There are many inspiring projects taking place throughout the country using this fund. These projects not only provide clean energy but also give social and economic benefits to the local community. This is an area we will continue to investigate.



10-Year Plan

The responses to the survey have given EGT the information and impetus to prepare a 10-year plan of what we aim to achieve. We will publish this plan later in the year. Thank you to all those respondents who offered to help EGT or help with various projects, we will be in touch soon. We will work with village groups where relevant as we appreciate many groups already have eco policies or wish to do more for the environment. Do not forget we regularly post articles on www.eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk, on the Greener Eynsford page and you can contact us via email, info@eynsfordparishcouncil.org.uk.



Jane Laird, on behalf of EGT.

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A Thank you for Jane Gray

Farningham Parish Councillors presented retiring Parish Clerk Jane Gray with an Acer (Japanese Maple tree) and a garden voucher to mark the end of 29 years dedicated service to residents of the village.

Covid-19 meant it was a socially distanced affair outside Jane and her husband Ian's house in late November with chair Liz Bourne (left) and vice-chair Daryl Burns making the actual presentation. Once restrictions are lifted we hope to have a more social evening with Jane.



Jane was born in Clapham and soon after her parents moved out of London and bought one of Fox's new houses in Pollyhaugh, Eynsford. Along with most of village children Jane went to the new comprehensive school in Swanley (the first comprehensive school in Kent) when it opened, along with her future husband who lived in Farningham. At fifteen she took on a weekend/school holiday job at Deirdre the hairdressers situated behind what is now Wards Estate Agents. During the six years she worked at the salon she got to know a lot of Farningham residents and this served her well when she took over as Parish Clerk in 1986. After nine years Jane stepped aside only to return to the role five years later.

Over the years Jane has worked with nine different Chairs of the Parish Council and as well as the administrative role she carried out Jane always went the extra mile to help the parishioners. "I've spent a lot of time helping and advising the people and given my all," said Jane, who also enjoys reading and writing and prided herself in producing accurate council minutes.

Jane has lived in Hillside for 35 years. She married at 21, has two sons and five grandchildren and as well as looking after the Japanese Maple now taking pride of place on her patio, Jane is beginning to enjoy the extra hours available to spend more time with her family and friends.

Thanks Jane and the best of luck.

Carol Salmon

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Eynsford in Bloom



We have not held a work party since I wrote the last report in December. However, some maintenance is needed. Heavy rain has washed soil away at the ford again. The strong winds blew down one of the four cotoneaster trees on Four Tree Island at the station. We are unlikely to replace it as this is happening too frequently. A small shrub and perennials will be planted in the Spring.

The apple tree and Rosa Rugosa have been pruned at the station. Sticks have been removed from the triangle where the primrose will flower soon. Leaves and weeds have been removed from one border behind the boat. Just three inches down the soil is still completely dry.

Hopefully the recent frosts will help control garden pests and diseases. The winter flowering cherry trees in many gardens have been flowering profusely since November. In St. Martins Church yard the aconites are showing their bright yellow colour. The first snowdrops are opening and the hellebores are in flower. Birds and small mammals will be sheltering and feeding in our garden borders. Please break the ice on water in a bird bath or other drinking sites, eg puddles.

During the next four weeks we must decide whether or not to enter the annual South and South East in Bloom event. Judging will be during one day in the three weeks from 28th June to 16th July. Four alternative ways of judging, dependant on the Government restrictions at the time, have been prepared. The judging gives extra purpose for us to keep the village as clean and attractive as possible but requires considerable time and effort from our volunteers to maintain past standards.

Our own gardens are wonderful wildlife sanctuaries and Eynsford is a wildlife oasis surrounded by arable land. The hedgerows and River Darent are wildlife corridors. We are privileged to live in and enjoy this beautiful valley.

Due to the Covid lockdown we will not be holding our regular work parties until the regulations are relaxed. Our priority is to keep safe.

Pauline Penney. 01322. 864751

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“This little Guiding light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine”



As mentioned in an earlier issue of *Trident*, Brownies have been “keeping their Guiding light shining” during lockdown, with parents acting as “Lockdown Owls” and supervising “Brownies-at-Home” activities from a resource pack complete with written/video instructions, that can be completed at home at a time that fits around other family/schooling/work/IT demands.

Some have been learning basic sewing techniques and we were delighted to learn that one or two have used these to have a go at sewing some of the badges they earned over the summer onto their Brownie hoodies. They have been using their voice (and artistic skills) to raise awareness about issues important to them. We’ve had some championing the measures needed to keep us safe during the pandemic, some calling for less cruelty to animals, and exhortations to keep our village clean and tidy, etc. Brownies have also made bird feeders and hung these in their gardens to keep our feathered friends fed over the colder winter months.

The present term includes Girlguiding’s World Thinking Day (WTD – February 22). This is a day of international friendship celebrated annually by members all around the World, and is usually accompanied by a range of themed activities. The WTD theme for this year is *Peace*. If you are a current or former member of Girlguiding, do please join us, and our sisters-in- Guiding in neighbouring villages, in an adapted version of the WTD “Ripples of Peace” activity in the weeks leading up to Thinking Day, by decorating and hiding a pebble (or making and displaying a decorative window poster) bearing the words “Peace” and “#WTD2021”. Then see how many you find/spot if out and about for legitimate purposes, sharing photos via social media. On Thinking Day itself we’ll be encouraging our Brownies to each light a candle and think about what single action they can take in order to #StandTogetherForPeace and promote peacebuilding. Well, we managed to complete our Mother’s Day craft just before Lockdown 1 back in 2020; let’s hope that face-to-face Brownies becomes a safe and responsible option in time for Father’s day 2021!

Until then, we hope everyone is keeping safe and well, and look forward to the time when we can meet in person again.

Brown Owl – 2nd Farningham & Eynsford Brownies

You can follow our exploits on Twitter @2FEBrownies

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NOTICES & LETTERS

Lights of love St.Botolphs.

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the discs on our Christmas tree.

A donation of £85 has been sent to Help for Heroes.

Valerie Wells

Sevenoaks u3a

Approaching retirement, partly retired or already retired?

How would you like to explore a new interest or develop an existing one ?

The Sevenoaks u3a motto is ' Learn, Laugh, Live' . With 900 members we offer everything from Art Appreciation to Wine Tasting, rambling to scrabble, cycling to science, history to photography, computers to music. You name it we probably have it and if we don't we are willing to try it! Sevenoaks u3a offers 94 special interest activities to keep your brain and body in shape and help you meet new friends. Small group face to face meetings will resume as soon as possible until then Covid -19 lockdown limits contact to mostly virtual meetings. £13 pa gives you membership, for more information

see www.sevenoaksu3a.org.uk

Farningham Village Hall Management Committee Shares Best Wishes for 2021 with All Trident Readers.

We hope the coming year will eventually allow some return to community events even if it is on a very small scale. We aim to maintain the hall in a state of readiness so that it is available for hire at such time that is allowed by Government guidelines. We have followed Government advice to keep the village hall as a Covid secure environment by putting in place all the guidance, provision and arrangements recommended to protect users against Covid. The Meadow is always available for hire in conjunction with the hall at very reasonable rates. Our website gives details of the facilities and charges. We have WIFI and our website www.farninghamvillagehall.co.uk shows details and costs. For bookings and enquiries contact our Booking Secretary on 07530297707.

Our AGM, at which the committee is elected, is scheduled for February 22nd at 8.00 PM. It will most likely be conducted via Zoom and the public are invited to attend. If you are interested and wish to attend this event , send items for the agenda, volunteer to join the committee or raise any other matter about the committee or Village Hall please feel free to email me at fvhchair@gmail.com.

Viv Parker Chair FVHCTEE



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Wheelchair Rugby

In 2006, during a business trip down under, I had the opportunity to watch Great Britain play a couple of matches in the Wheelchair Rugby World Championship in Christchurch, New Zealand. Little did I know the impact that trip was going to have on the next 14 years of my life!

The sport at that time was very small here in the UK, comprising seven clubs and, at a guess, 70 or 80 players (all of whom would have been tetraplegic, having suffered life changing spinal injuries). Eventually I found myself on the Board of the charity that runs the sport, becoming Chair in 2010; effectively by default, when my predecessor decided to focus on being selected for the GB squad for the London 2012 Paralympics.

The ten years since have been a bit of a roller coaster. At the grass roots, the game expanded materially, and we now have a domestic league comprising three divisions, over 20 clubs, and more than 350 players. Programmes were established for young players, as well as in spinal units and military rehabilitation centres. We also developed a new variant of the game, which now provides for wheelchair rugby to be played by people with greater functionality than is allowed by the Paralympic version.

At the GB elite level, December 2016 became a moment of heartbreak. Despite coming fifth in Rio (equalling our World ranking at that time), UK Sport announced that they would not be renewing our elite level funding. This not only placed a huge question mark over our ability to maintain a competitive GB team, but also raised questions over the future of the grass roots with the GB team being the profile that allowed us to attract sponsors and volunteers. The next four years saw us embark on an intense and challenging campaign to find other sources of funding – and, remarkably, this was not only achieved, but the elite team even managed to improve our world ranking.

Wheelchair Rugby here in the UK only functions due to the phenomenal efforts of a small and varied team of people. I have been fortunate to work with some truly inspirational individuals, be they players, family, volunteers, sponsors, our small but talented band of employees, and of course my fellow Board members. When I first became involved it was because I wanted to “give something back”. However, truth be known, wheelchair rugby has given me far more than I have ever given it. It has been a privilege to be involved!
Kevin Aitchison

Congratulations to Kevin Aitchison who has been awarded an MBE for Services to Wheelchair Rugby and People with Disabilities. Ed.

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FARNINGHAM WI

January is a time for resolutions and this is true in the WI.



Every year, in Autumn, members across the UK are invited to submit a resolution for our annual national campaign. These are short-listed and at the New Year meeting, members of each WI make their choice, their votes are counted and submitted and the `winner` goes forward for formal adoption at the National Annual General Meeting in June. It then becomes the focus of our campaign.

This year of course we faced a problem : how to get as many votes as possible , without relying on email or post and the inevitable constant reminders ? We`ve all been there! Luckily an opportunity presented itself at our Christmas-Goody-bag-Pick-up in December. We were then back in the heady days of Tier 3, allowing us to organise a phased socially-distanced pick-up outside the Village Hall. On arrival, each lady was presented with a voting slip and told “No vote, no bag” ; we had our biggest ballot ever! We hope we won`t be forced to resort to this drastic method next year.....

From a short-list of 5 worthy causes , our most popular were “A call to increase awareness of the subtle signs of ovarian cancer” and “Stop women dying prematurely from coronary heart disease”. We`ll find out later in the year whether members nationwide agreed.

Results were published in our January newsletter, which also included members` updates, national and district WI news, some reminiscences and thoughts on 2020 , quiz pages , birthday greetings and lucky (virtual) raffle winners.

The `January Challenge` focussed on New Year Resolutions of course and as an incentive to make a list, each lady received a pen, bearing the message : “*Farningham WI 2021 We`ll Meet Again*” .

We can`t wait!

Marilyn Wells

www.farninghamwi.wordpress.com

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Farningham and Darent Valley Probus – 2020 Part Two?

Christmas is well and truly over, now a distant memory. The festive lights have been taken down, Frosty the blow-up snowman has been deflated, the Christmas tree has been recycled or planted in the garden with a vain hope of resurrection and the tinsel has been put back in the box. All that remains are the scratch marks on the front door where the wreath was hanging, scattered pine needles down the side of the sofa and the eye-catching, glistening tinsel fragments on the carpet which somehow keep reappearing, despite numerous Hooverings. Actually, we Dyson but for some reason the term ‘dysoning’ never did catch on.

And, if you weren’t able to cancel the supersized bird that was ordered for the planned, but disallowed, massive family Christmas gathering, you would have had a vast amount of turkey to get through, all of it just to be eaten within your own household. “What will it be tonight?” you may have asked, “how about turkey curry - again?” Alright, the main ingredient may have



seen fresher days and be a bit doubtful after all this time but the curry sauce will make it palatable again and, if you’re lucky, nobody will know. Nobody else ever saw the label with the ‘use by’ date on it and anyway you’ve forgotten what that date was or even that a label existed, so waste not, want not. It won’t spoil anybody’s social plans, they were not going out anyway. It might cramp their stomachs but it won’t cramp their style. Nobody’s night out will be ruined but they may get a night in they won’t forget and it’s guaranteed that no one will want turkey again. Ever. Well, maybe not until next Christmas.

But, catastrophe. Remember what you thought when faced with the shock of the arrival of that giant bird, which could easily have been a stand-in for an ostrich. To try to use it up you also followed a fancy Heston Blumenthal recipe for a snail, turkey and custard pie, with added sprinkled Alka Seltzer, milk of magnesia gravy and added extra turkey doubtful bits and put several of those pies in your freezer. At some time they will have to reappear and be brought back to life. Not literally we hope, although the snail part would be easy to catch. Best to leave them for serving to people you have fallen out with by the

time we are all set free. Protect your real friends and family from remembering the horrors of 2020. So, if I am offered said pies I will immediately know where I stand in your pecking order.

After Christmas we said good riddance to the old year and looked forward to 2021 but that hopeful feeling didn't last very long. Things thus far have gone so Pete Tong that this could be 2020 part two and we all know the golden rule of sequels, they are never as good as the original. But maybe that doesn't follow in this case because that golden rule assumes the original was pretty good in the first place. I suggest, m'lud, that the evidence will show that is not the case with the year in question.

At the time of writing we are once again in lockdown but we are all walking around our equivalent of the prison exercise yard or during our parole hour with one sleeve rolled up. We're not just showing off our excellent upper arm muscles and tattoos, although my own left arm has a particularly fine depiction of a ship's chunky chain and anchor. Classy, eh? It's based on a Popeye cartoon where he had the same motif tattooed on one arm with the other arm showing his spindly girlfriend, Olive Oyl. My other arm shows an illustration of a tin of spinach. This was Popeye's super food which gave him the power to defeat his enemies so I had it tattooed there many, many years ago to scare off the school bullies. It didn't work. In fact, it had the opposite effect, I became a renewed target. I've never liked spinach since then.

No, we haven't rolled up our sleeves just to show off our arms and to invite compliments, although they would be welcome. We are walking around with bare arms eagerly anticipating and ever-ready for our jabs and hoping they will be the answer to this predicament. It's fortuitous that these jabs are being given in the arm and not in other cheekier parts. Everyone walking about bared and ever-ready for that jab would be quite awkward, rather chilly and could lead to misunderstandings.

But the signs for the future are good and science appears to have come to the rescue with our own UK efforts well to the forefront. Hurrah! We can have hope that it's the beginning of the end for this pesky virus and, so long as it doesn't keep mutating and coming back hiding its 'foe' tin helmet behind its back and donning a 'friend' beret to disguise itself, thereby confusing our natural home guard defence systems, we should be on to a winner. Altogether now, we shall overcome ---- someday.

But what of Probus, I hear you say, isn't this supposed to be a report on Probus meetings? Well you'll never guess but – there haven't been any.

Joe Irwin 10 January 2021

Eynsford Gardeners Club



January – Happy New Year, Janus

January the first month of the new year, where did last year go ? A strange unexpected year that seems to have flashed by. Good news from a gardening front though as apparently in the lockdowns a whole new crop of returnee and new gardeners have picked up their shears and dibblers to start growing. I hope if you are in that group you've enjoyed your gardening year, especially the pleasures of sitting enjoying the flowers you have grown or eating the results of your hard work.

An enjoyable January task will be sitting down with a pad and pencil, lots of seed and plant catalogues to plan 2021's planting and produce. There is so much choice and variety, aren't we lucky?

January named for Janus the two faced Roman god who looks forward and back. That certainly applies for gardeners at this time of year. A quiet month, looking back at what went well – potatoes, tomatoes (didn't everyone have a glut !), aubergines, peppers and chillies, varieties of which I will be re-planting in 2021. Recognising also what did not succeed and deciding where to try something different e.g. 3 years of failing to grow sweet potatoes, lots of foliage but no tubers mean it's butternut squash instead this year.

I like to try something different each year either a new vegetable or new variety. This year I am trying ginger, avocado indoors and some different varieties of beans and peas out as last years pods weren't stunning . Try planting herbs in pots on a sunny window sill to brighten a room I'm still picking window sill tomatoes from last year.

On the practical side January is tidy and clean month ...**Check and clean the greenhouse** especially guttering , sort the pots and equipment ready for the spring. **Outdoor plants pots** put on stands / bricks so they don't get waterlogged. **Mulch and prune fruit bushes** to encourage a good crop. **Keep leaves clear** from new bulbs. **Chit the early potatoes** . **Clear out** dead and decaying materials. **Prune fruit canes**. Finally **check, clean and maintain** tools. I am sure you have more to add to the list. Time to potter and watch the daffodils and narcissi greenery appearHappy New Year All

Some links for new gardeners :- **Compostthis.co.uk** for first time gardeners wondering what the magic work Composting means, this site explains. **RHS.org.uk** –advice and information source for gardeners.

Jacky Smith Membership Secretary www.egclub.co.uk

ALAN CREMER'S QUIZ

What animal.....

- 1). "Welcomes little fishes in, with gently smiling jaws?"
- 2). Has been described as.... "The Devil's walking parody, of all four-footed things"?
- 3). Said "Let go, you are hurtig be"?
- 4). Went " Over the hedge and into ride. In Ghost Heath Wood for his roving bride"?
- 5). Decided that " All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others"?
- 6). Whenever the butcher was by: "Kept looking the other way, and appeared unaccountably shy"?
- 7). Has: " An indolent expression and undulating throat, like an unsuccessful literary man"?
- 8). " Has a very bad temper all on account of the cake crumbs inside"?
- 9). Provided a caudal bell-pull?
- 10) Even spoiled the women's chats?

Send you answers to: alanctela@gmail.com

ANSWERS TO THE LAST QUIZ.

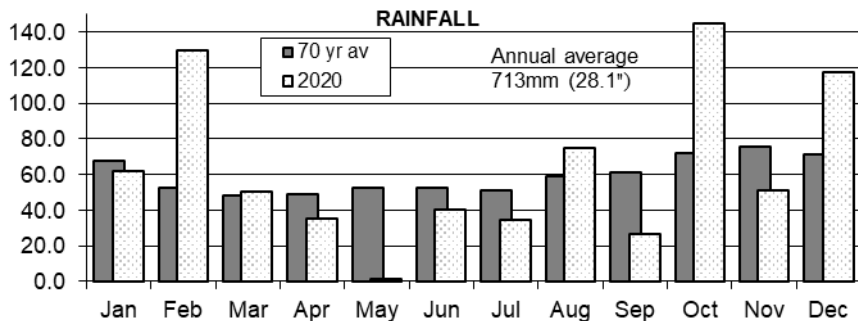
- 1). Here's Harry.
- 2). Only Fools and Horses.
- 3). Up the Elephant and Round the Castle.
- 4). Hancock's Half Hour.
- 5). Sykes.
- 6). My Wife Next Door.
- 7). George and Mildred.
- 8). The Larkins.
- 9). Bread.
- 10). Upstairs Downstairs.



Eynsford Weather Data

December 2020

James Alexander



Total rain to	2020	768 mm (30.2")	2018	688 mm (27.1")
end of December 2019		772 mm (30.4")	2017	654 mm (25.7")

National Overview. It was a generally unsettled month, dominated by low pressure. It was quite cold during the first week and more especially during the last week, when northerly winds blew frequently, but the middle fortnight was mild with predominantly south to south-westerly winds. The mean temperature for December was 0.5°C above the long-term average. Rainfall was 150% of average, and a few places had over twice the normal rainfall amount, but rainfall was near normal in some central southern parts. Sunshine was 98% of average, but anomalies varied widely.

In Eynsford we had 118mm (4.6") rain, in 15 days, which is 165% of average. We ended the year at 108% of average, which is similar to last year. We had a few very wet periods during the month, ending with dry, frosty weather and the wind from the north.

Community Calendar

ARPS	Anthony Roper Primary School	EVS	Eynsford Village Society
FPC	Farningham Parish Council	EVH	Eynsford Village Hall
DVYM	Darent Valley Youth Music	FC	Farningham Church
EiB	Eynsford in Bloom	FVH	Farningham Village Hall
ECB	Eynsford Concert Band	Fnt Crt	Fountain Court
EBC	Eynsford Baptist Church	ECF	Eynsford Cricket Field
EPC	Eynsford Parish Council	OSH	Olive Seal Hall

ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE/CANCELLATION

Send in you dates to efltrident@yahoo.com

2021

9 January	EiB Work Party	Car Park	9.30am
20 January	EWI social members only	Castle Hotel	7.30p.m.
21 January	EPC Council Meeting	Online	8pm
1 February	EPC Committee Meeting	Online	8pm
5 February	FPC Council Meeting	FVH	7.45pm
6 February	EiB Work Party	Car Park	9.30am
17 February	EWI It's your duty to be beautiful	EVH	7.30p.m.
18 February	EPC Council Meeting	Online	8pm
3 March	FPC Council Meeting	FVH	7.45pm
6 March	EiB Work Party	Car Park	9.30am
17 March	EWI Demonstration capsule wardrobe	EVH	7.30pm
19 March	EVS AGM	EVH	7.30pm
3 April	EiB Work Party	Car Park	9.30am
7 April	FPC Council Meeting	FVH	7.45pm
21 Apr	EWI Culinary herbs	EVH	7.30 p.m.
1 May	EiB Work Party	Car Park	9.30am
5 May	FPC Council Meeting	FVH	7.45pm
19 May	EWI Annual meeting	Darent Rm	7.30p.m.
2 June	FPC Council Meeting	FVH	7.45pm
5 June	EiB Work Party	Car Park	9.30am
16 June	EWI Birthday meeting - Seaside Sauce	EVH	7.30p.m.
3 July	EiB Work Party	Car Park	9.30am
7 July	FPC Council Meeting	FVH	7.45pm
21 July	EWI OPEN MEETING Keep fit	EVH	7.30p.m.
7 August	EiB Work Party	Car Park	9.30am
18 Aug	EWI Annual Dinner	EVH	7for 7.30p.m
1 September	FPC Council Meeting	FVH	7.45pm
4 September	EiB Work Party	Car Park	9.30am
15 September	EWI Flower arranging in a big way	EVH	7.30p.m.
2 October	EiB Work Party	Car Park	9.30am

6 October	FPC Council Meeting	FVH	7.45pm
20 October	EWI OPEN MEETING Spanish Cookery	EVH	7.30p.m
3 November	FPC Council Meeting	FVH	7.45pm
6 November	EiB Work Party	Car Park	9.30am
17 November	EWI Neal's Yard	EVH	7.30 p.m
1 December	FPC Council Meeting	FVH	7.45pm
4 December	EiB Work Party	Car Park	9.30am
8 December	EWI Christmas Special	EVH	7.30p.m.
17 December	EVS Christmas Quiz	EVH	7.30pm

Anthony Roper Primary School dates for 2020/21

Term 3: 5th January - 12th February

Term 4: 22nd February - 1st April

Term 5: 19th April - 28th May

Term 6 8th June - 21st July

The Tuesday Community Bus to Swanley

Leaves Eynsford Rise about 10.30 and collects wherever you want, including Mill Lane, Old Mill Close, Farningham and then on to Swanley. There you have about one and a half hours before being returned to your door with your shopping. If you would find this service useful, contact Rural Age Concern Darent Valley for details of the modest cost and to book a pick up 01474 879473.

Mobile Library Times

Every other Wednesday:

Eynsford - Pollyhaugh - 11.10-11.40

Eynsford - Gibson's Court - 11.45—12.15

Farningham - Alban Crescent - 10.15-10.45

How to Contact your District Councillor

Sevenoaks District Council 01732 227000 www.sevenoaks.gov.uk

Farningham: Philip McGarvey 862870 cllr.mcgarvey@sevenoaks.gov.uk

Eynsford: Alan Cheeseman cllr.cheeseman@sevenoaks.gov.uk

How to Contact your MP

Laura Trott MP

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Tel: 072193000 Email: laura.trott.mp@parliament.uk

How to Contact Kent Police

Either call 101 or report online.

The link is: <https://www.kent.police.uk/services/report-a-crime/kent-police-online-reporting/>

Fly tipping

Fly-tipping on highways, footpaths and public land should be reported promptly (at any time) to Sevenoaks District Council on 01732 227000.

Recycling in the Villages

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Old coins Phil McGarvey 17, Tilmans Mead, Farningham
Bulky Refuse 01732 227000 (Press1)

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Garden rubbish brown bags

Parish Office Eynsford, Swanley Library; SDC Offices, Sevenoaks

Black and clear rubbish bags

Parish Office Eynsford; Jane Gray Farningham

Recycling using your clear sacks

You can put the following clean items into your clear sacks:

- Newspapers, magazines, other paper and shredded documents
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- Tetra Pak® and other food, drink and long-life cartons
- Aluminium take-away and ready-meal trays and clean kitchen foil
- Plastic bottles and tops. Plastic yoghurt pots, margarine and ice cream tubs, fruit baskets and trays. Please put black plastic pots, tubs, trays or lids, or film lids in your black sacks.

Milk in GLASS bottles

If you care about the plastic issue, you could help a little by having your organic milk delivered to your door in glass bottles. It would cost you more, but it would ease your conscience! It's 81p for a glass bottle or 95p for organic. Contact milkandmore.co.uk or phone 0845 606 3606 to organise deliveries.

What about Plastics?

We are all trying to reduce how much plastic we use and buy, but sometimes we can't avoid it.

Many supermarkets will recycle your plastic bags and packaging - just ask. There are also recycling scheme for packaging such as crisp packets - see www.terracycle.com

The Eco Pantry, based at Chart Farm, Seal is a new shop where you can refill your own containers with dried goods, cleaning products and more - worth a visit on Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday!

BRAESIDE SURGERY DOCTORS' TIMES

	Mornings		Evenings	
Monday	Dr Ellul Dr Shetty	08:30– 12:30 08.30 – 12.30	Dr Ellul Dr Shetty *By appointment only*	16:10 – 18:30 "18.30-19.30" 17.30 – 18.30 Commuter Service
Tuesday	Dr Ellul Dr Tan	08:30 – 12.30 08.30 – 12.30	Dr Ellul Dr Tan	16:00 – 18:30 15.30 – 17.30
Wednesday	Dr Ellul Dr Shetty	08:30 – 12.30 08.30 - 12.30	Dr Ellul "By appointment only" Dr Shetty	17.30-18.30 "18.30-19.30" Commuter Service 16.40-18.30
Thursday	Dr Shetty Dr Ellul	08:30 – 12:30 08:30 – 12.00	Dr Shetty Dr Ellul	16.20-18.30 16.10-18.30
Friday	Dr Tan Dr Shetty	08.30 – 12:30 08:30 – 09.30	Dr Tan Dr Shetty	15.30 – 17:30 16.40-19.00

WHAT TO DO WHEN WE ARE CLOSED:

NHS 111 – URGENT BUT NOT LIFE THREATENING Tel: 111
 South East Health provide an 'on-call' doctor service outside of normal surgery hours for our patients from Darent Valley Hospital. To access the service please telephone the surgery where you will receive either a message or be diverted directly to the local surgery on call between 1pm – 4pm OR between 6.30pm – 8.00am dial **111** where your call will be triaged and diverted directly to the on-call doctor or service where appropriate. Please use this service rather than dialling 999 or attending the A&E Services if your condition is not life threatening.

ALTERNATIVE HEALTH CARE SPECIALISTS:

Minor injuries can also be dealt with by **Minor Injuries Unit (MIU)** at: Gravesend & North Kent Hospital, Bath Street, Gravesend open 9:00 – 9:00 seven days a week, or at Sevenoaks Hospital, open 8:00 – 8:00 (x-ray 9:00 – 4:00 only) these are both Emergency Nurse Practitioner (ENP) led clinics. The ENPs are trained in assessing and diagnosing a wide range of minor injuries; i.e. cuts and bruises, strains and sprains, foreign bodies in eyes, minor burns and scalds.

Local Services

Transport can be provided to hospitals, chiropodists, doctor. Please phone Lilian on 863293, 48 hrs notice would be appreciated. Queen Mary's & DVH - £8
Chiropodist @ Devon Rd £5 Farn. Surgery £2.50 Any parking expenses will be additional to these charges. We do not do lifts to the hairdressers or Bluewater!!

Lifts for pensioners to Post Office, Sainsbury's, Swanley - Liz on 865529
Wheelchairs and walkers for short loan, phone Molly Copus on 01322 532029
Bus Pass /Rail Warrant - you must buy that warrant from railway station
Hospital Visiting Please notify Gillian on 866228 if someone would like a visit from the church pastoral team.

NHS Hearing Aid batteries EVH 1st Tuesday 2-3pm - ON HOLD

Podiatry Service The Mill Clinic Horton Kirby 864499

Podiatry Home visits Debra Wilkinson 860512 Mob: 07984 914 067

Home Delivery Service of Library Books including audio books for the housebound phone 01959522488

Tell us once service These people will do all the necessary phone calls when you have to cope with a death Phone 08458 247 400

Lunch ready cooked Age UK West Kent 01474 350525

Caring, Cooking Anne Phillips CRB checked 07931 811 758

For equipment for the Disabled and Changes to the Home:

Social Services D'ford 01322 343867 Social Services S'ley 01322 611000

Elderly 01474 328 664 Sevenoaks 01732 456 223

Hospital Discharge Scheme 01732 227000 and ask for Hosp Dis Sch

Washing hair in hospital. Buy a Reynard shampoo cap – a rinse free conditioning shampoo in a disposable cap. It's very easy to use: the cap is put in the microwave to warm up and then put on the head and massaged for 15 minutes before it is removed, leaving you with lovely clean hair. The cap costs £4 and can be ordered at a chemist.

Services of Family Mosaic Home Improvement

Free advice and guidance; Assistance with adapting your home; Help with applying for benefits; Fire, home safety checks

Handyman services Grass cutting and decorating services

01732 758 355 Ext: 758355

Swanley Foodbank 11 Lynden Way, Swanley BR8 7DN 07798 872573

National Domestic Violence Helpline 0808 200 247 (Women); 0808 801 0327 (Men) or visit www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk

Bus Times from September 2020

Bus Times from September 2020

From EYNSFORD, opp. Five Bells & FARNINGHAM, Pied Bull (4 mins. later)

Mondays to Saturdays - Route 2 to SWANLEY 10:35 & 13:10

Sundays and Bank Holidays – Route 429 to SWANLEY, DARTFORD,

Darent Valley Hospital & BLUEWATER 09:30, 11:55 & 15:05

also from FARNINGHAM, Pied Bull

Mondays to Saturdays – Route 429 to SWANLEY 06:07(MF), 06:47(MF),

To SWANLEY & DARTFORD 07:34(MF)(SHOL), 08:37(SO), 09:37(MF), 10:37,

11:37(MF), 12:37, 13:37(MF), 14:37, 16:37(SO), 16:52(MF) & 17:52(MF)

From BLUEWATER, Darent Valley Hospital & DARTFORD

Sundays and Bank Holidays – Route 429 to FARNINGHAM & EYNSFORD

10:30, 13:40 & 16:10 (departs Darent Valley Hospital 6 mins., and DARTFORD

Lowfield St. 13 mins. after BLUEWATER)

From DARTFORD Lowfield Street

Mondays to Saturdays – Route 429 to FARNINGHAM 08:37(MF), 09:32,

10:32 (MF), 11:32, 12:32 (MF), 13:32, 14:32*(MF), 15:32(MF)(SHOL),

15:32(SO), 16:47(MF), 17:32(SO), 17:47 (MF), & 18:47 (MF)

From SWANLEY, Bartholomew Way opp. ASDA

Mondays to Saturdays – Route 429 to FARNINGHAM 09:00(MF), 10:00,

11:00(MF), 12:00, 13:00(MF), 14:00, 16:00 (SO), 16:02(MF)(SHOL),

17:15 (MF), 18:00 (SO), 18:15 (MF) & 19:15 (MF)

Route 2 to FARNINGHAM & EYNSFORD 10:54 & 13:29

Sundays - Route 429 to FARNINGHAM & EYNSFORD 11:08, 14:18 & 16:48

From FARNINGHAM opp. Pied Bull & EYNSFORD Five Bells (3 mins. later)

Mondays to Saturdays - Route 2 to SEVENOAKS Bus Stn 11:05 & 13:40

From SEVENOAKS Bus Stn.

Mondays to Saturdays - Route 2 to EYNSFORD & FARNINGHAM

10:16 & 12.51

MF - Mondays to Fridays; SO - Saturdays only;

SHOL- School holidays only; *- to Swanley only

David Toser

Children & Young People

Baby sign group	07768447657
Baby Sensory	07786 448701
Little Bright sparks	07768447657
1st F & E Brownies	
2nd F & E Brownies	866863
Rainbows	864726
Beacon Hill Babies Music	07958609636
FCC Juniors	07835881451
Cubs	863069
Clare's 11+ Club	07789 796 283
Guides	07703845778
Rangers	07939926084
Anthony Roper Pre-School	865469
Musical Tots EBC Georgia	0907@h'mail.com
Netball	866244
Tiddlers on Mondays (EBC)	07894541984
Tiny Tots (FVH)	07584902914
School (ARPS)	863680
Scouts	863069

Church

Bellringers (E & F)	862479
Eynsford Baptist Church	07411278637
Darent V.C. Church	07908045445
Grace Centre Church EVH	07886510330
Rector	863050

Drama and Music

Axstane Players Farn.	01322 274541
Centre Stage Juniors	07834 460 686
Darent Valley Youth Music	866177
Eynsford Concert Band	07506 679015
Farningham Guitar Club	01322 666566
Follies Singers	
Riverside Box Office	07704 279 948
Riverside Youth Drama	07427 607 003
Polychor	07900842454
Ukelele Group	866177

Health

Dementia Help Line	0800 500 3014
Baby Clinic	866327
Doctor Farningham	862110
Doctor The Cedars, Swanley	612686
Doctor The Oaks, Swanley	668833
Foot Clinic (Age Concern)	01474 879473
"health with hames" Yoga	07753212264
Osteopath	07956 246307
Rural Age Concern	01322 666448.
Citizens Advice Bureau	01322 875888
Osteopathy/Physiotherapy	01322 927828

To borrow tables 01732 461462.

Leisure

Bridge Club	
Photography Club (EPIC)	862275
Eynsford Gardeners	866984
F'ham Horticultural Society	862603
Ladies Probus	863186
Library delivery service	01959 522488
Local History Society	864234
Probus	863186
Eynsford WI	867831
Farningham WI	863996
Riverside Social Club	863114
Tea and a chat FVH	866325
Tea Dance FVH	01322 663649
Tuesday Club	863701 or 863069
Lullingstone Visitor Centre	03000 411811

Parish Affairs

Eynsford in Bloom	864751
Edwards Hall Lettings	863069
Eynsford Parish Council	865320
Eynsford Village Society	866102
EVH General	07925 254 658
EVH Booking Sec.	07780 532525
Eynsford Tree Warden	07412 038634
Farningham Parish Council	07375062428
F'ham Vill Hall bookings	07530297707
Farn Vill Hall caretaker	07710228599
Olive Seal Hall	866407

Sport & Physical Activities

Aerobics Tues, Thurs, Fri	864581
Badminton Mon EVH	862077
Badminton Wed EVH	863839
Badminton Thurs EVH	867894
Cricket ECC	07973 702440
Cricket FCC	07835881451
Croquet	862275
Irish Dancing	864276
Linda's Line dance FVH	01732 870116
Kempo Club	07759 620739
Netball	07864279305
Pilates on Wednesdays EVH	07860665531.
Pilates on Weds FVH	07505 364 161
Riverside wanderers (Vets)	07770882085
Running Club 861560	07860840932
Zumba FVH Thursday	07552755005



EYNSFORD VILLAGE HALL



Reg. Charity No. 302737

One of the largest Village Halls in West Kent in the lovely Darent Valley
Ideal venue for parties, live bands and shows, film shows,
wedding receptions, concerts and dances.

Large stage, public address system, lighting available
The perfect place to hold your function, large or small.

Concessions for residents.

Contact: 07780 532525 or *via* www.eynsfordvh.com

Result of EVH Lottery for last month

(see article in the magazine)

Tickets available at Rafferty's and Norman's



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The Crown, 10 High Street, Otford
TN14 5PQ

Tel: 01732 755582

Email:

hello@vitalityhomehealth.co.uk

www.vitalityhomehealth.co.uk

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