

EGERTON UPDATE

The quarterly magazine for the village of Egerton, Kent

Issue 1 February 2016



Welcome to your new village magazine

Egerton Update is the new quarterly publication for the village of Egerton in Kent. Run under the stewardship of Egerton Parish Council, this four – times- a- year publication is intended to be a forum for capturing village life in this very active community.

Many residents have been loyal subscribers to *Egerton-with-Pluckley Parish Magazine* which enjoyed 25 years of excellent stewardship under Jackie Grebby. Sadly this has now ceased publication but we wanted to be able to continue the ethos of producing a local magazine which focuses on the many village activities which keep this community so vibrant.

Egerton Update is being delivered free, each quarter, to every one of Egerton's 455 households with a further 50 copies available for

additional distribution. The publication is also available to download in PDF format on the village website. Its focus is on delivering news and information on all activities within the village from the many associations and clubs, major village events, as well as providing a summary of Egerton Parish Council meetings and village initiatives – and as such it will incorporate the Egerton Parish Council newsletter.

This February edition is the very first publication of the magazine and subsequent issues will be delivered in May, August and November this year. The cost of the magazine will be funded via advertising from local firms and businesses – many of whom had long supported the Parish Magazine and who remained keen to ensure that their products and services their products

and services remain at the forefront of local consumers' minds. Any surplus cash generated by the publication will be channelled into local Good Causes. Much of the content of the publication has been generated by local residents. Reports and pictures of the activities of village clubs and societies, sporting events, publicity for local shows, performances etc should be sent to egertonupdate@googlemail.com for inclusion in forthcoming issues. The ethos of the publication is to simply reflect and record the activities of local groups, societies, sports and social clubs and village institutions.

Egerton is an extremely active village with a long track-record of supporting community-minded initiatives – with your help and support we can keep it that way.

We hope you enjoy this inaugural issue!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE: * Upcoming Events * Announcements * News from village clubs and associations * Summary of Egerton Parish Council minutes * Key contacts * Village calendar *



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The Telegraph



MailOnline



High-speed Broadband in Egerton - it's almost here!

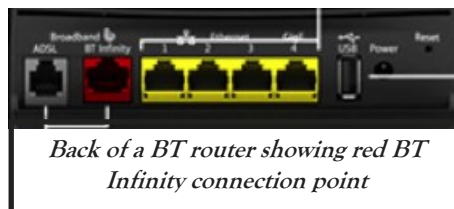
BT has been working on the Egerton exchange to allow access to high speed broadband in the village. For about two years the status has been that the work "will start" within the next six months. However in the last few weeks there has been much activity and BT has been in the village enabling the exchange, running the fibre optic cables and has put in new green cabinets. The Openreach site status has changed and now states "approximately 4 months" (correct at time of going to print). Hopefully it will be available by the summer but we still cannot find a definitive date.



What Happens Next?

Once the exchange is enabled BT will inform all the other service suppliers (TalkTalk, Sky etc.) that Superfast connections are available in our area. BT normally will inform everybody through the post. (Pluckley were enabled at Christmas and received a flyer through the letterbox). You can also register to be emailed and check the progress at www.superfast-openreach.co.uk/where-and-when. It will ask you to put in your post code and you will be able to see which cabinet you will be linked to.

You can normally upgrade your existing broadband package at no extra cost. If you have an older Hub then you may need a new one as the connection is slightly different. You can look on the back of your modem, there is a port that says BT Infinity on BT hubs if your modem is suitable. Otherwise you will need a Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) compatible modem. Most modems in the last few years have both connections.



Back of a BT router showing red BT Infinity connection point

It is not necessary to have an engineer to install it. The new modem will come through the post.

What's Download Usage?

You will notice that different packages have a download usage. More expensive ones have unlimited downloads. This is the amount that you can download each month. If you go over that limit then you will be charged extra. It is very easy to go over a 10gb limit. If you have children streaming YouTube or they have an Xbox or PlayStation it won't last long. If you have Sky, an HD movie can be 3.5 GB so three films a month would be your limit. BBC iPlayer also consumes a lot of data. That is before you have somebody emailing 40mbs of photos of their child's birthday party.

Wireless Mast on Church Tower

VFast is a wireless coverage high speed broadband supplier which has recently installed a mast on Egerton Church to make high speed broadband available. The website is www.vfast.co.uk/packages. The cost is a bit more expensive than cable broadband but the speeds are pretty good and if you don't need a normal house phone because you use a mobile you can do away with the line rental.

Thank You!

A very big thank you to all the advertisers who have supported *Egerton Update*. With their help, we have now covered the cost of publishing all four issues of the magazine this year.

Thank you too to everyone who has contributed articles, and contacted us with news, club reports and details of events.

We hope that everyone in the village finds the information useful. The next edition will be published in May, with an editorial copy date of April 13. You can contact the magazine at:

egertonupdate@googlemail.com

What about Mobile Phone Coverage?

We all know that mobile phone coverage is dreadful in this village especially if you live on the south side of the hill.

Despite numerous attempts to persuade Vodafone to improve its coverage (as it had the contract for the emergency services), it refused to do anything saying the coverage was 'adequate'. However, we are working with another supplier to supply coverage to parts of the

village. Once planning and site location has been agreed and approved we will update you further.

It won't be the complete solution as there are still parts of the village that will have very bad coverage - Mundy Bois, Newlands Green, the Forstal and Bedlam Lane (not an exhaustive list).

Egerton Parish Council will continue to investigate options for these areas and for more solutions for the village—but it's a start!

Egerton Update is published by Egerton Parish Council and is produced by volunteers. Whilst every effort is made to ensure accuracy in the production of the magazine, any opinions expressed in articles are those of the individual contributors not the Parish Council.



Daffodils in December !

This photograph was taken on December 27 2015 at the top of Rock Hill Road and clearly shows daffodils in full bloom! Our unusually balmy December weather clearly foxed these bulbs into thinking spring had already sprung!

Cricket Club brings in the Quizzers!

Over 20 teams took part in Egerton Cricket Club's annual quiz held in the Village Hall on Saturday January 23 (see photograph below).

Quizzers 'brains were fried by a fiendish anagram challenge and challenging question rounds.

Winners of the quiz were The Presidents.

Participants also enjoyed refreshments including a chilli supper.



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Sewage site to be refurbished?



Southern Water is investigating carrying out works to the Egerton Waste Water facility to improve and refurbish the existing machinery and equipment.

The company is currently discussing with the Playing Fields Committee using some of the Lower Playing Fields land (behind the cricket net) to station its site equipment for the duration of the project.

This will involve having a crane on site

for some weeks to lift larger equipment in and out.

If Southern Water does proceed, then works will commence later this year with the majority of the work being completed within six months although Southern water will maintain a small presence on site after the main works have finished whilst the new equipment is commissioned.

Further details in the next issue.

Works at school

Egerton School reports the news that planning permission has been granted to Egerton Preschool, allowing them to construct a purpose built building within the school grounds. Included in the planning permission are details of improvements the school intends to make to the pedestrian entrance. The current entrance is too small for the amount of traffic at the start and end of the day and the school has been looking at how we can redesign this area. The work will be completed in stages, as some of the work will not be able to be completed until after the new preschool building is finished. During the February half term, a new soak-away will be constructed at the front of the school. The improvements to the drainage have been commissioned to reduce the amount of water that collects in the car park. The planning permission allows for the removal of the tree closest to the school entrance, the tree is in poor condition and needs to be removed to allow for the new entrance and adjacent path. The school intends to keep any disruption to a minimum and has also made arrangements for vegetation along the path adjacent to the school grounds to be cut back, including the tree close to the steps.

Short Mat Bowls club meets on Fridays

New members are welcome at Egerton's Short Mat Bowls Club. This friendly club meets on Friday's between 1.30pm and 4pm in the village Games Barn. Call Mike on 01233 756387 if you would like to know more.

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Parish Plan becomes living document for village

At a joint meeting of the Parish Plan Committee and the Parish Council held on January 27th Plan Committee Chairman Chris Burgess handed Parish Council Chairman Richard King a copy of the newly published *"Egerton Parish Plan"*.

Three years in the making, the 50 page plan proposes a range of initiatives and priorities for action for Egerton, identified by a detailed village survey and questionnaire undertaken by the Plan Committee. A copy of the plan has been delivered to every household in the Parish, and further copies are available at Egerton Village Stores. Richard King praised the members of the committee for their hard work and dedication and for producing a document which clearly sets out the important issues facing our community. Several of the key priorities are already in hand, he



told the committee, and the progress with the proposed initiatives will be reported regularly at future Parish Council meetings. Chris Burgess emphasised the Committee's view that the Parish Plan should be the precursor to an Egerton Neighbourhood Plan which would ultimately become a part of the

legal framework for planning decisions for the Parish. Finance for the production of the Plan included a £2,000 grant from the KCC Member Grant Fund, with additional funding from Ashford Borough Council.

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School reports on busy term ahead

Susan Hubbard, Egerton School's Business Manager reports:

Christmas seems a distant memory with the school already well into term 3. Our year 6 pupils led the family service at St James' Church in January during which their subject was *New Year, New Beginnings*. They had worked hard to put together a thoughtful service.

Since September, we have been delighted to welcome members of the local community into our school as volunteer helpers who listen to the children read. Along with some of our parents, they visit the school regularly; the children enjoy the opportunity to read and to discuss the contents of their chosen book. Just before Christmas we invited our volunteer helpers into school to say thank you with coffee and mince pies, and presented them with Christmas cards made by the children. If you are

interested in becoming a volunteer helper please contact me via the school office.

Our PTA the Friends of Egerton run a variety of events through the school year. They are already planning the Easter Fair which takes place after the Easter church service on the last day of term, as well as preparing for discos that they will be holding for the children in February. They regularly hold a 'Happy Bag' collection where parents, family members and those in the local community can take the opportunity to de-clutter their wardrobes donating unwanted items to the school, who then receive a payment relating to the overall weight of the bags collected. Our most recent collection raised £286! The next 'Happy Bag' collection will be on Wednesday 13th April. If you have any unwanted items such as: clean clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts, hats, bed-linen, towels, soft toys, jewellery or souvenirs, please place them in a bag and bring them to the school where they can be stored ready for the next collection.

The children will be welcoming various visitors to the school over the next term. Kent's fire safety officer will be visiting to talk to the children about fire safety. The talks will contain appropriate information for each age group. In February 'Roots to Food' will visit, it has been commissioned by TCS our school dinner providers to run workshops for the children on how healthy

eating can be fun as well as beneficial to health. Darren Tinkler, the founder, is a qualified and experienced chef. He will be presenting informative and interactive sessions for the children including a cooking challenge.

The busy start to this term has already seen our year 4 children have the opportunity to earn their Level 1 Bikeability qualification.

Martin Wilkinson of the Friends of Egerton writes:

In support of the school and the wider community the Friends Of Egerton are looking to work closely with the new Parish Council publication *Egerton Update*. This gives everyone involved with the school and the area a fantastic opportunity to provide a professionally produced communication which will be delivered free to every household in the area (and available as a pdf document online via the Parish Website).

As parents/guardians of children at the school it also gives a unique opportunity for anyone running a business to place an advert in the publication and perhaps make a voluntary donation to the Friends in return for having "Supporter of the Friends Of Egerton" beneath the advert in the *Egerton Update*.

If you would like further details please contact Martin Wilkinson at martin.wilkinson@sjpp.co.uk or 07999 042 726 or *Egerton Update* at egertonupdate@gmail.com

If you already have arranged to place an advert in the *Update* but would like to also support the Friends' efforts in supporting the school, please get in touch. Many thanks for any support you can give to the community and the school.

Qualified Foot Health Practitioner Mrs Afsaneh Smith

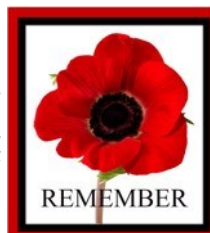
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Poppy Appeal raises £738

The Egerton Poppy Appeal for 2015 raised £738.70. A big thank you to the team of collectors whose efforts enabled this sum of money to be raised. Thank you also to the Shop, the Primary school, the Queens Arms and all those who contributed.



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Run among the bluebells

So you've got through 'Dry January' and are looking for the next target that combines exercise, fun and supporting a local good cause.

Look no further! This is for you: whether you want to be the fastest person in the village or just say to yourself "I did it" - the Bluebell Run is the challenge of 2016. Organised by the Friends of Egerton Church of England Primary School and Egerton Running Club, the event takes place this year on Sunday May 8th.

Now in its 6th year, the event invites adults and children to participate and entrants can choose the 10K or 5K Run or parents can support their children in The Fun Run through the beautiful lanes, orchards and bluebell woodlands around Egerton Parish. See page 24 for details



Winners and runners at last year's event collect their prizes and medals at Egerton School. Participants and supporters enjoyed well-earned refreshments at the end of the race.

ST JAMES' CHURCH FLOWER GUILD: February - May 2016

FEB	7	Mrs J Manuel
LENT		
MARCH	27	EASTER Mrs J Harman
APRIL	3	Mrs B Stevens
	10	Mrs B Stoodley
	17	Mrs R Shrubbs
	24	Mrs W Simkins
MAY	1	Mrs P Harper
	8	Mrs K Crabb
	15	PENTECOST Mrs J Kingsnorth
	22	Mrs V Smith
	29	Mrs P Stead

Lilies for Easter



This year Easter Sunday falls on the 27th March. Over the last number of years the Altars of St James'

the Great have been decorated with lilies. If you would like to make a donation towards these in memory of a loved one, contact Priscilla Harper on 756437. Why not join us in arranging flowers in the church. "I can't arrange flowers" is no excuse. Lessons and demonstrations can be arranged. Simply get in touch with Priscilla for more information.

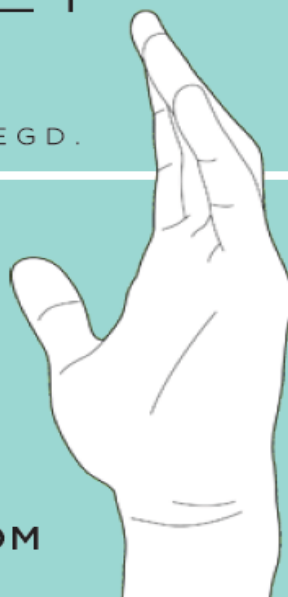
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Harvest mouse “guests” at WI



On Wednesday 2nd December Egerton WI had their annual Christmas social where we enjoyed a lovely buffet prepared by caterers; wine and soft drinks flowed which was a good thing and kept our throats lubricated enabling us to enjoy a good chat. The competition at this event was for members to make and wear a Christmas hat and went on to produce some stunning (and some not quite so stunning) creations. The Christmas hat winner on the night was Diane Dickens. Other winners that evening were the competition cup winner Priscilla Harper and the Achievement cup winner, Kay Langridge who has qualified as a Teaching Assistant. We took part in the Christmas Fare on Saturday 5th December by raffling three lovely hampers which had been beautifully put together by our president Liz Wyndham and raised a reasonable sum for our funds. Some members had a pre Christmas

trip to London on Friday 11th December and thoroughly enjoyed it; they visited Borough Market and Covent Garden and were lucky enough to see the Christmas lights. On Wednesday 6th January, our speaker was Steve Kirk from Wildwood Animal Park. He gave a very interesting talk on the harvest mouse which is the smallest member of the mouse family and even brought one with him for us all to see! He then went on to show us some examples of edible plants found on the edge of the local recreation ground which are full of vitamin C and good for the digestion. Steve did stress that it was not always wise to eat them raw but OK if you boil them a little first!!!

Forthcoming speakers and events

Wednesday 3rd February, Sandra Richards talk on “The humorous side of nursing” and the competition is “Most original photograph taken at Egerton 2015 fete”.

Wednesday 2nd March the speaker is Melanie Gibson-Barton on “The Life and Times of Edith Cavell” and the competition is “An Easter Bonnet”.

Wednesday 6th April the speaker will be Prue Anderton on “Sunday tea with Mrs Reed” and the competition is “A garment you have made”.

Wednesday 4th May Resolutions and programme planning. The competition is “a silly photograph of yourself in fancy dress”.

Besides these events taking place at Egerton, within the East Kent Federation WI, we have in March a “have a go day” for all those interested in crafts of any kind with experts on hand to show you how. In April there is a “spring garden day” where interesting speakers and flower arrangers keep us entertained.

If this whets your appetite and the WI sounds fun come along on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm to the Millennium Hall where you will be made very welcome.

Press Secretary:
Mrs Angela Plant
e-mail:

angela787@btinternet.com

Telephone: 01233 712282

Pick up after your pooch



Dog owners are reminded to clean up after their pets following complaints of dog mess on The Glebe.

There is a bin on the The Glebe which can take bagged dog waste.

Egerton Church of England Primary School

Stisted Way, Egerton, Kent
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Headteacher: Mr L Selby



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Egerton Pre-School Relocation

For some considerable time, work has been ongoing to find an appropriate space for a new building for the Pre-School and at the very end of 2015 planning permission was granted. The environmentally sympathetic construction will stand in the grounds of the school in front of the main building. This will not only provide the required dedicated space but will also acclimatise the children to the school environment bringing them into contact with facilities and staff prior to their progression to school.

At the same time, the school is taking the opportunity to remodel its front entrance to make it safer for the children entering school and to accommodate a bigger car park. Our thanks go to Jane Laurie and Swifts Builders for their considerable help in getting to this point.

However, this is only the beginning. Detailed plans are now being produced for the tender process and once more exact costs have been determined, fundraising will need to increase.

We already have some funds in place, courtesy of the Egerton Friends (the coffee morning/summer gardens group) who have to date raised over £2,000. The village fete generously gave £5,000 and grants have been given by KCC and Geraldine Dyer from her member's fund. Our thanks go to all these people but we still have a long way to go.

As soon as we know our target, we will let you know but the message is simple. Please support us in our fundraising. Not only will this give our youngsters their dedicated space but it will considerably free-up the village hall to be used by the whole community again.



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Volunteers needed to help with clean-up

Egerton Village Clean Up takes place this year on Saturday April 2 and as usual, welcomes volunteers from around the village to come along and help.

Volunteers are asked to meet at 10am at the village hall where information and all the necessary equipment for the clean up will be distributed to volunteers.

Celebrations for Queen and Commonwealth



Two major celebrations with royal connections are taking place in Egerton this year.

On March 14th a special Commonwealth flag atop St James' Church will be raised for Commonwealth Flag Day and on April 21st Egerton's ceremonial beacon will be lit as part of Her Majesty The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations.

Your views wanted on Mobile Library Service

Kent County Council is looking for your views on proposals to re-design and improve the mobile Library stop service across the county. You can find out all about the proposal by visiting KCC's website (www.kent.gov.uk/mobilelibraries).

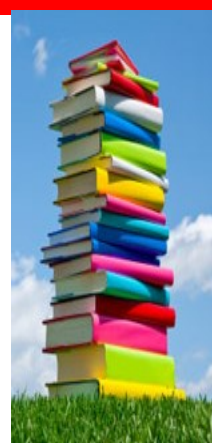
Here you will find all the information about the proposal including: why KCC is re-designing the mobile library service, the criteria KCC is

proposing to use when reviewing stopping locations and the impact this will have on the current service.

If you have any queries about the consultation please email KCC at

LRAconsulation@kent.gov.uk, or telephone 03000 413131 (Monday to Friday, 8am-6pm).

Consultation closes at 5pm on Friday March 4th 2016.



Players roll out the barrel



The recent Egerton Players Music Hall production was a raging success. On both nights in late November, the Egerton Millennium hall was filled with audiences enjoying two hours of raucous enjoyment in song, melodramas, monologues and humorous compering.

It was a delight for the Players to be involved in such a rewarding experience.

Just before Christmas around 18 members went around the Village on a trailer pulled by a tractor, stopping at strategic points to sing carols to whoever ventured out of their doors. Fortunately the weather was kind to us and we raised money for the Heart of Kent Hospice, where one of our members works, finishing up at the Rose and Crown for a very welcome sausage and mash supper. A further session of carol

singing took place at the Rose and Crown on Christmas Eve and altogether £332.32 was collected from generous residents.

Activities and productions are being planned for this year and 2017 including the likelihood of another Pantomime, the possibility of Quizzes, Singing Workshops and involvement in village activities. A Murder Mystery is planned for performance very soon.

Egerton Players is a thriving village society and has over 50 fully paid up members. New members have joined and we are always looking for more. If you would like to join us you will be very welcome. Come along and help us decide what plays or pantos to perform, help with scenery and front of house - we have great fun whilst putting together a worthwhile show for the

community. We would welcome some more young blood into the company. If you would like to join us please come along whether for reasons of socialising, acting, singing, directing, organising or just plain fun. Please email our Secretary secretary@egertonplayers.com.

Annual General Meeting

All prospective new members and members are urged to attend the AGM of the Egerton Players on **Monday February 22nd at 7.00pm** in Egerton Village Hall to ask questions, make suggestions and elect the Committee.





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Egerton & Pluckley United Football Club

Egerton and Pluckley United Football Club has an Under 13 team which plays home matches at the Egerton football pitch next to the cricket pitch and pavilion. We are in the Ashford and District Youth Football League www.full-time.thefa.com, play 11 a-side and are always looking for new players who were under 13 at the start of the current school year. The team has been established for over five years and is run by Craig Darnley and John Harrison who have completed FA coaching courses and who would be delighted to hear from any potential new players or sponsors.



Church wall is spruced up!



The Churchwardens and PCC of St James church are grateful for the financial support received via a grant from Ashford Borough Council. Councillor Geraldine Dyer accessed her community funds and on a 50/50 basis with our own funds we now have a churchyard wall that is no longer in danger of falling into the busy road due to the weight of vegetation growing in it and on it.



CATHY HILL EXTOLTS THE NEED TO SUPPORT VILLAGE SERVICES

We all care about our village community and it is a particularly good one; a community that wins awards, where people are friendly and help each other, where great events and interesting activities are always taking place. I have often thought that living in Egerton is like having a big extended family – there are characters that you love and adore, characters that you get along fine with, some that are practical, some wise, some eccentric and baffling. But you love them just the way they are because life wouldn't be the same without them. They are part of our community- and community means everyone playing their part to make the thing work.

Apply this to our village amenities: our shop, our pub, our garage etc. Local amenities can only exist with our support. What would it suggest about our community if it was unable to sustain support for them? Would it be “community” or “a collection of individuals” that only think of their own convenience?

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Parish Assembly - have your say

Are you new to the village but haven't found out what you would like to join in with? Is there a burning issue that you would like to discuss but haven't had the opportunity? This is your chance to find out what is happening in the village throughout the year. Talk to representatives from each of the clubs and societies, find out when they meet and even enrol. Speak to your local representatives from the Parish, Borough or County Council. The Parish Assembly is open to everyone. Come and have a glass of wine or light refreshment and have a chat. It is being held in the village hall on March 17th from 7.30pm - 9.30pm.



Canterbury Cathedral Choristers In Egerton!

The Choristers of Canterbury Cathedral will be performing in Egerton at St James' Church on Saturday April 30 as part of Egerton Music Club's 2016 programme.

Tickets cost £12 (or £10 for club members). Available from Egerton Village Stores or by phoning 01233 756254/756259

The Christmas Fair on the Glebe ... an Egerton tradition under threat?

Cathy Hill calls for more volunteers to keep this village celebration alive

The Christmas Fair is a beautiful Egerton village tradition that has been going on now for over 15 years.

What are your favourite memories from those special occasions?

Is it the wonderful pre-Christmas atmosphere that it evokes, that for some people, kick-starts the festive season?

Is it the carol singing by lantern light

with the Salvation Army, the mulled wine and mince pies, or the "Mummer's Plays" on the back of a trailer, years ago?

Is it the Father Christmas Tractor Rides, the wonderful sparkly Christmas Tree or the traditional music of the minstrels? The hot dogs or winning the biggest bottle on the Tombola?

There have been many highlights.

Often we have been blessed with lovely frosty December weather, sometimes even a sprinkling of snow, but during 2015 the weather became more and more unpredictable, with gales occurring every other week. Finally, "Storm Desmond" caused such high winds

that, on the morning of December 5th, it was impossible to put up the marquees and huts and expect them to stay there. Our open air festival was forced to retreat indoors to the Millennium Hall. However, the huts and fairy lights looked lovely in there, the mulled wine tasted just as good and Father Christmas still arrived and took many people on a particularly blustery tractor ride.

The aim of Egerton Christmas Fair has been for the community to come together and celebrate and raise funds for their individual groups in a joyful seasonal atmosphere. It even generates some tourism, with visitors coming from around Kent and sometimes further afield. Sadly, that of 2015 may have been the last, as the small committee, that makes it happen so wonderfully, is now exhausted and new members are called for! It will only happen again if a new committee is formed.

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How much do you want the Christmas Fair, because... **THE CHRISTMAS FAIR NEEDS YOU!** Please contact Cathy on 01233 756515 cathyon-thehill@hotmail.com if you would like to give it a go.

Over 60s celebrate 50th Anniversary

Jenny Oliver reports

Sadly I have to mention here the passing of Graham Silver and Doris Frederick. Graham had served as the Club's secretary for around 7 years and will be sadly missed.

Condolences have been sent to Margaret, who herself, is coping, with help, very well after having suffered a stroke. Doris would have been 94 in February 2016. She had been a member for very many years, and more recently as her health deteriorated, her son pushed her down to meetings in her wheelchair until his untimely death in March 2015. David was then our Chairman. Our condolences go out to Barry, David's brother, who has lost a mother and brother within ten months of each other. Gloria is home from hospital at the moment but remains rather poorly. Thankfully, David is her full-time carer and coping very well. We all hope and pray that she makes some recovery, albeit, slowly.

Our December meeting consisted of a Quiz organised by Sylvia and

hundreds of Christmas cards were exchanged and members left with a gift and card from the Committee.

The Xmas lunch was a superb meal and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The Ashford Camcorder Club entertained us at our January meeting. Most interesting films were shown, all produced by members who are also members of our Club. They are a clever lot !! The Camcorder Club recently lost their President - John Williams - who was also a member of our Club. Val, his wife, was very brave and provided the commentary.

Ollie Nisbet's film of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in Egerton's Street was very much appreciated by all. He even managed to film Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip opening the celebrations.

Sheila and Alan thank members who kindly brought their

old Christmas cards to the Hall at our January meeting for the Woodland Trust for recycling. We were also thankful for the "used" stamps which we will be delivering to the RNLI.

2016 sees the Egerton Over Sixties Club's 50th anniversary. This year's programme includes events that are just that bit more special, notably our speaker on March 14th when "An Audience with Queen Victoria" will be given by Anne Carter in costume. Visitors from our neighbouring groups in Smarden and Bethersden will be joining us, and non-member guests with Egerton connections will be particularly welcome. On that day you don't have to be over 60 to attend. Please let the Secretary know if you are interested in coming but don't have a member to invite you.

Meetings take place on the second Monday of the month in the Egerton Millennium Hall, starting at 2pm. The presentations begin after brief introductory business, followed by afternoon tea. There's always a stall of items and a raffle. Entrance is £2 per meeting, and full annual membership subscription is only £5.

Other significant events are planned for later in this Jubilee year. Watch this space!

For Information contact Jenny Oliver (07876 762541).

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Upcoming meetings and events:

February 8th meeting will be held in the Millennium Hall at 2 pm when one of our favourite speakers~Geoff Hutchinson will be presenting "Love poems".

Our "Winter Warmer" lunch will be held on **Tuesday February 16th** at the George, Molash. The meal will consist of 2 or 3 courses so do make sure you have booked by February 8th. We depart Egerton at 11: 30 am and will be picking up at Little Chart at 11: 35am and Highworth School at 11:45am. We hope to arrive back in Egerton around 3:30 pm.

March 14th meeting sees Anne Carter present "An audience with Queen Victoria".

On Monday April 11th, Heather Woodward will be speaking on the "Air Ambulance Service"

Both these meetings promise to be interesting and we welcome any non-members to share these with us. For £2 it's not bad for entertainment and refreshments.



Millennium Hall Update

Sue Johnson reports:

CHAIRS: Hopefully by the time you read this, lots of posteriors will have positioned themselves on our lovely, new chairs! This was possible because of a generous contribution from Kent County Council organised by Charlie Simkins, our County Councillor, augmented by a substantial grant from the Lottery 'Awards for All' and topped up by Village Hall funds.

CHARGES: There has been a slight increase in rates for 2016 for parties and weddings and a £50 deposit has been introduced for weekend bookings by villagers. The pricing list is now posted on the Village Hall website, together with conditions of hire.

RUBBISH: Over the last few months bags of rubbish have been dumped at the Hall. The dustmen will not take these because there is NO collection from the Village Hall and members of the Parish Council, the Hall Secretary and myself have had to lug these away for disposal. Hall users are reminded that they must take all their rubbish away.

WEBSITE: Thanks to assistance from those lovely people in the Telecottage, a calendar of events already booked for 2016 has been put on the Village Hall page and will be updated periodically but is for guidance only. (Any mistakes are entirely mine!)



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Let's get ready to jumble!



With spring just around the corner there's no better time to sort through all those unused, unloved and unwanted items that gather dust in cupboards and drawers in homes up and down the village.

And those items are needed for St James' Church Grand Jumble sale which is being held on Saturday March 12th in the Games Barn. The sales begins at 2pm and anyone with donations is asked to drop them off at the Games Barn from 10am on the day. If your items require collection then contact Jan Burgess on 01233 756147. The organisers are looking for items of bric-a-brac, clothing, toys and games and good quality books. If you can help with the event and the sorting of the donations, particularly on the morning of the sale, then please also get in touch with Jan.

Curtain up on 2016 theatre trips

Theatre-goers from Egerton and the surrounding villagers enjoyed a trip to see *Guys and Dolls* last month as The Village Theatre Club opened its New Year programme.

The club arranges the trips by coach so there is no rushing for late night trains – and club members enjoy being dropped and collected right outside the theatre. In 2015 the club arranged trips to see top shows such as *Wind in the Willows*, *Miss Saigon*, *Lord of the Dance*, *High Society*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, *Gypsy* and *Beautiful*. The club has now been running several years and aims to offer goods seats at reduced prices and new members are always welcome. There is an initial joining fee of £25 per person and after that all you do is pay for the show and the coach. For more information about the club and future theatre trips contact Elaine Graham Tel: 01233 756137 or E mail: elainedgraham@btinternet.com.

The Village Theatre Club



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WANTED! Your Egerton sports photos



Egerton Cricket Club in 1910

Do you have an old photographs or any memorabilia of an Egerton Football or Cricket team? Or, indeed, any other sports event in Egerton!

Egerton Playing Fields Committee is looking to get as many old photos or items of memorabilia as possible to put on permanent display in the Sports Pavilion. Egerton has a proud sporting heritage as these photographs from "Pictorial Egerton" show.

If you could rummage through your old photo albums (and boxes in the attic) and find any (in whatever condition) then the EPFC would be keen to borrow and copy them.



Egerton Football Club in 1965 with back to front, left to right: Gordon Rye, Alan Brown, John Moss, Geoff Hopkins, Reg Mackey, Howard Matthews, David Moss, Frank Roberts, Geoff Wickens, Cecil Homewood, Oliver Nesbitt



Egerton WI's triumphant darts team with their trophy as winners in 2000.



The Egerton tug-of-war team at Swarden fete with coach David Missing. Pulling are: Henry Missing, Harold Hilder, unknown, Doug Cardno, Alan Palmer, Roland Hopkins and Malcolm Palmer

Please contact: Jonathan Elworthy on 01233 756205, 07802 499577 or by email: jonathan@elworthys.com

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Laugh your way to happiness!

Laughter Yoga sessions, devised by an Indian doctor in the 1990's, include playful breath and body-based exercises to increase oxygen in the body and release our natural "JOY" chemicals (endorphins). Laugh away stress and pain, exercise muscles, boost the immune system and generally feel wonderful! Laughing is the most natural and effective medicine for the human body. You can learn, at the Egerton Laughing Club, how to massively increase your happiness and well-being through your laughter, and lead a free-er and more exciting life!

The sessions are not humour based and don't include jokes. The Egerton Laughing Club has been, for twelve years, and still is, the only Laughing Club in Kent. Make the most of this unique opportunity, and come along to any of the sessions, usually in the Millennium Hall on Saturday mornings from 10.30am – 11.30am. Sessions cost £4 per person and include free refreshments after. No experience necessary. Next dates include:

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6th
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27th
SATURDAY MARCH 12th



SATURDAY APRIL 9th
SATURDAY APRIL 23rd

Come on! What are you waiting for? It will be a laugh! It might even change your life! For more information please call Cathy 01233 756515

cathyonthehill@hotmail.com

Egerton Neighbourhood Watch

Lois Tilden, is Egerton's NHW co-ordinator. Here, she outlines the role of NHW in the community

The NHW co-ordinator's main role is to:

- Receive crime information from the police and trading standards officers and cascade it to people who have asked to join the email network as members of the scheme
- Publicise the scheme
- Welcome new residents to the Neighbourhood Watch network
- Maintain close links with Ashford Police

station and local Police Community Support Officer (Paul Moorey)

- Encourage members to be vigilant and report suspicious characters or incidents to the police on 101
- Circulate updates and electronic links to useful websites
- Encourage members to put crime prevention measures into practice, such as home security
- Try to encourage neighbours to check on vulnerable residents and provide advice to members about dealing with callers at the door

- Hold or host meetings or give presentations and talks eg at Parish Assemblies

Lois also:

- Supports people in the village who are trying to locate missing pets or farm animals, or find the owners of stray animals, or similar incidents, by circulating details on the Egerton NW email network

- Circulates information received from people in the village who have already been in touch with the police about an incident, with a view to giving warnings or advice

- Issues information messages to members of the Egerton NW network about road conditions in adverse weather, send out reminders about public meetings and events in the village that are non-commercial and not-for-profit (i.e messages that are only for the purposes

of bringing the community together and keeping them well-informed about community issues)

The role of the individual members of a NHW scheme is:

- To receive information and alerts from the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator and act on them.
- To cascade information and alerts to neighbours who are not on the internet.
- To report suspicious matters direct to the police, and copy the information to the NW co-ordinator so that he/she may circulate it to the others in the local NW group.
- Encourage more people to join the local group, by email if possible.

Take an interest in police matters e.g. by attending the mobile police station when it is in Egerton or take part in other police initiatives advertised via the co-ordinator.

If a crime is in progress, dial 999. To report anything suspicious, dial 101 and speak to a police operator giving as much detail as you can. Please do not contact Lois until after the Police have been contacted!



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Lois Tilden, can be contacted on 01233 756221 or email neighbourhoodwatch@tilden.eclipse.co.uk. Lois is Egerton's voluntary NHW co-ordinator and is a member of the Weald area NHW Committee. If you wish to join the Egerton Scheme, and receive email alerts and other messages from Ashford Police via Lois, please get in touch with her.

Bushcraft Dates: April 29–May 2

Local wildlife expert and Bushcraft enthusiast Steve Kirk tells us more

Did you know that every year in a quiet corner of Egerton's fair countryside, hundreds of people gather together over the first May Bank Holiday weekend, pitch tent, sling a hammock or even *raise a tipi* and camp out to practice and share their bushcraft skills?

Bushcraft is *knowledge of the wild and skill in its ways*. In other words, the sort of things you would need to know if you love to spend long periods of time outdoors. It is nature knowledge, tracking skills, firefighting knowse; it's the ability to improvise and resource yourself whilst on an extended (or brief) stay in an outside environment, whatever its complexion – be it mountains and moorland or the woods and fields closer to home. We call it *reconnecting to the landscape*.

In just one long weekend in peaceful rural Kent you could learn to carve a spoon, forge a knife blade, forage for wild food, create fire by friction (and by a multitude of other ways), skin and cook a rabbit and build a shelter in the woods as well as sampling

other crafts and practical skills that will leave you thirsting for more. This is the seventh annual event organised by the *Bushcraft Magazine*, an international magazine produced here in Egerton, that over three days in May brings to life the subject material of its pages – with a little extra, such as live acoustic music and traditional storytelling around the camp fire of an evening.

The May Meet is not aimed at hard core survivalists – it is a totally family-friendly occasion with activities for everyone, including younger children. We have a team of experienced and friendly instructors who are ever willing to freely share their knowledge and it is all included in the cost of the weekend (with the exception of a few optional extras). There is quality kit on sale if you are looking for equipment From ferro-rod firesteels to outdoor clothing.

Plenty to keep you busy during the day and after supper there is music, d r u m m i n g , storytelling and, weather permitting, star-gazing. Have



you got
a thirst

for knowledge, a desire for new experiences? Enjoy camping and spending time in nature? Love first-hand learning with your children? In a society that is being de-skilled we are keeping traditional knowledge alive and we want to share it with as many people as we can. And if you didn't know that it was already going on in Egerton, that's because of another important bushcraft maxim that these considerate people adhere to – *tread lightly and leave no trace*. Look out for the full list of activities, dates and costs on our website www.bushcraft-magazine.co.uk or contact steve@bushcraft-magazine.co.uk or call 01233 756515.

Wine-wise?



A night of Wine and Wisdom awaits on Friday March 11 as the Weald Of Kent Protection Society presents its Quiz Night. Starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall there is a free bottle of wine for each table– but teams are asked to bring along their own food for the evening.

Teams of six are required and tickets are £6 per person. Entry forms are available at Egerton Village Shop.

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Cash in the piggy bank



Martin Wilkinson of ML Wilkinson Wealth Management updates us with hints and tips on financial planning—starting with a focus on savings for children.

Maximizing available tax efficiency for childrens' (or grandchildren's) savings

Are you fully aware of tax efficient ways of saving to encourage, educate and help your children save and invest towards their future?

Child Trust Fund- the facts:

- Children born between 1st September 2002 and 2nd January 2011 qualified for a Child Trust Fund (CTF).
- Parents may recall receiving a payment for £250 or £50 a few weeks after your child was born if within these dates.
- The maximum permissible investment has risen from £1,200 per tax year to £4,080

per tax year per child

- The Child Trust Fund automatically matures on the child's 18th birthday and they have access to the funds.

However children born either side of these dates are also entitled to their own tax efficient way of saving. These children qualify for a Junior Individual Savings Account (JISA). In addition, parents or guardians of children with the old Child Trust Funds can now transfer them to a Junior ISA (see below) with the advantages

Junior ISA- the facts:

- The maximum permissible investment is also £4,080 per

tax year which can be invested in Cash or Stocks and Shares .

- They are able to remain invested at age 18 and then continue with the fund in their own right.
- At the ages of 16 and 17, children can benefit from both the £4,080 JISA allowance and the £15,240 adult Cash ISA allowance.
- There have been a number of changes to legislation to these tax efficient savings vehicles over the past year.

Rather handily, where affordable, the contributions can be made by



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Parents, Grandparents, Friends or Family and this JISA allowance is in addition to the adult's own tax free ISA allowance (currently £15,240 per year).

Do you have children with Bank Accounts that are being paid into on a regular or ad-hoc basis for Birthdays, Christmas etc?

A friendly word of warning if you, as a parent, are putting money into savings accounts in your child or children's name. Any total interest over £100 per year is treated as your own income and should be taxed on you accordingly.

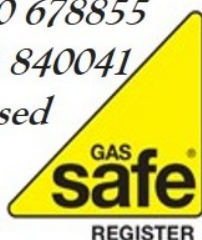
If you would you like to see these funds potentially grow with tax efficiency for the longer term, this could certainly make it easier for when the time comes for them to go to University, have a deposit for a house, car purchase, travelling fees, weddings or whatever you feel they could be used for when your children reach adulthood.

So, in a world where, for the next generation it may be increasingly difficult to find a job/career, afford to buy a house coupled with older generations living longer and needing to hold onto more of their savings for their own healthcare costs, planning now will simply make a massive difference to your child or children's future.

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The May issue of *Egerton Update*!

The next issue of *Egerton Update* will be distributed in May. Between now and then we welcome your photographs, and reports, of all the news that is happening in your club or society.

We would also love to receive details of what is coming up in Egerton during the Summer months.

All you have to do is to email your contribution to egertonupdate@gmail.com—or simply drop us a line to let us know what is going on. The final copy date for editorial contributions will be April 13 2016.

Photographs really help us bring the publication alive so please be ready to take pictures for use in the magazine as and when you can!

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Life-saving information



Public Access Defibrillators (PAD)

We have three PADs in the village, one by the entrance to the Village hall, one on the white house opposite the post box in the Forstal and one on the wall of the Good Intent Cottages (left side as you enter) in Stonebridge Green. In the event that someone is in respiratory failure or Cardiac Arrest (however caused) you must (or get someone else to) RING 999. You should start CPR

straight away and get someone to go and get the defibrillator from one of the locations in the village. The first person from the ambulance service may well be one of the Community First Responders who will have a defibrillator and oxygen with them and they are trained to give CPR, **BUT DON'T STOP** your CPR until they say so. Even if you happen to know the phone number of a village responder you **MUST RING 999** first and get the resources running. Do not be afraid to 'have a go' you cannot make it worse for the patient since they will die without your intervention. 75% of SCA (Sudden Cardiac Arrests) are caused by ventricular fibrillation and with early good quality CPR and early defibrillation you can get people back, so have a go.

How to do CPR (Hands only)

To carry out a chest compression:

- 1) Place the heel of your hand on the breastbone at the centre of the person's chest.

- 2) Place your other hand on top of your first hand and interlock your fingers.
- 3) Position yourself with your shoulders above your hands.
- 4) Using your body weight (not just your arms), press straight down by 5-6cm (2-2.5 inches) on their chest.
- 5) Keeping your hands on their chest, release the compression and allow the chest to return to its original position.
- 6) Repeat these compressions at a rate of 100 to 120 times per minute until an ambulance arrives or you become exhausted.

When you call for an ambulance, telephone systems now exist that can give basic life-saving instructions, including advice about CPR. These are now common and are easily accessible with mobile phones.



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 February 14th Ambrose
 February 21st Orphaid's – Alan & Mary Digman
 February 28th Theo

MARCH

March 6th (Mothering Sunday) Danny
 March 13th Ambrose
 March 20th (Palm Sunday) Theo
 March 25th 10am (Good Friday) Danny
 March 27th EASTER Sunday
 Rev Peter Michell
 Iden Green Congregational Church

APRIL

April 3rd Ambrose
 April 10th Theo
 April 17th Danny
 April 24th TBA

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 01233 756459
Email:
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Website:
 www.egertonfreechurch.org.uk

EGERTON, ST. JAMES

FEBRUARY

Sunday 7 th	Next Before Lent	09.30	Matins
Sunday 14 th	Lent 1	09.30	The Eucharist
Sunday 21 st	Lent 2	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Family Worship
Sunday 28 th	Lent 3	09.30	The Eucharist

MARCH

Sunday 6 th	Mothering Sunday	09.30	Informal Morning Worship
Sunday 13 th	Lent 5	09.30	The Eucharist
Sunday 20 th	Palm Sunday	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Family Service
Sunday 27 th	Easter Sunday	09.30	The Eucharist

APRIL

Sunday 3 rd	Easter 2	09.30	Matins
Sunday 10 th	Easter 3	09.30	The Eucharist
Sunday 17 th	Easter 4	08.00	Holy Communion
		09.30	Family Service
Sunday 24 th	Easter 5	09.30	The Eucharist

For details of services in all 7 churches of the G7 Benefice please visit the website:

www.g7benefice.org or take a copy of Pew News from the table in the church. You will find a warm welcome in any of the churches.

Information about Lent Courses, Holy Week and Easter can also be found on the website or in Pew News.

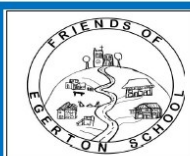
If you would like to speak to someone about Baptism, Confirmation, a Wedding Service or any other matter please contact either:

Reverend Canon Sheila Cox (Rector) 01233 712598
 sheilacox@g7benefice.org

or

Reverend Chris Hodgkins (Curate) 01233 756731
 chrishodgkins@g7benefice.org

What's on in and around Egerton



The Friends of

Egerton Church of England Primary School

supported by

Egerton Running Club

6th ANNUAL BLUEBELL RUN

Sunday 8th May 2016 – 10am

Support the School and get fit for a 5K or 10K run through the beautiful orchards, lanes and bluebell woodlands around Egerton Parish.

Or accompany your child in the Children's Fun Run

Entry fees 10K and 5K: £10.00 (£5.00 for 13 to 18 yr olds) Children's Run: £2.00. Races start at 10.00am. Medals and goody bag for all entrants. Prizes for first male and first female entrant, also for first Mum and first Dad from Egerton School, first boy and first girl. Parking at Egerton Village Hall. Facilities and Start at Egerton School. Registration on the day. Refreshments will be available

All proceeds to Friends of Egerton C of E Primary School



Egerton Friends Coffee Mornings

Why not join us in the Rose & Crown,

Mundy Bois

every Wednesday from 11am to noon.

Coffee and Raffle—£2 pp

Do come and have a chat and meet friends

In the summer, May to October, we visit a different garden in the village each week.

All are very Welcome

All the money raised goes to many local projects in Egerton, in fact we have collected over £47,500 since 1999. For example we have helped - The Church, Friends of the church, the Sports Pavilion, the Games Barn, helped kit out the kitchen in the village hall, Defibrillators for the village, Friends of the School, Church Flower Guild and Village Hall extension Fund.

This year we are concentrating on raising money for the Pre School Fund which will help them build their new extension at the school.

So do come and join us—we look forward to

Welcoming You

GRAND JUMBLE SALE

to be held

Saturday, 12 March 2016

in the Games Barn, Egerton

in aid of St James's Church

Doors open at 2.00 p.m

Please bring along your donated items to the Games Barn on the Saturday morning. If you require collection, contact Jan Burgess on 01233 756147

Egerton Mother & Toddler group



We meet every Tuesday (term time) in the Millennium Hall at 1pm - 3pm, £3 per session per family. Come and join our friendly group. A warm welcome awaits.

What's on dates

Tuesday 9th February - Valentines themed party, will include valentines crafts, snack and drink for children. Tea/coffee and cakes for adults. treasure hunt and singing with bubble machine.

Tuesday 22nd March - Easter party will include Easter basket making with an egg hunt, snacks, drinks, singing and bubble machine. Tea/coffee and cakes for adults, plus all our usual toys.



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Saturday 7 May 2016
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Dress code: Cocktail/lounge suit/black tie

The evening is in aid of the Mayor's charities, Pilgrims Hospices and Find a Voice.

Contact Andrea Collard to book.

andrea.collard@ashford.gov.uk // 01233 330317

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17th MARCH 2016

7.30PM

JOIN US FOR A GLASS OF WINE OR OTHER LIGHT REFRESHMENT AND
MEET REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VARIOUS CLUBS THAT ARE ACTIVE IN
THE VILLAGE

Come to Egerton's Own Cinema



The Egerton Film Society has gone from strength to strength since it started in 2001. It currently has a membership of 150, with attendances often in excess of 60 people at screenings in the Egerton Millennium Hall on the last Thursday of each month.

The Film Society takes great pleasure in putting together a varied programme and, there is a wide selection of classic and current films this season. On **Thursday, 25th February** we will be screening the critically-acclaimed new British film "45 Years", featuring two superbly nuanced performances from Tom Courtney and Oscar-nominated Charlotte Rampling. They play an ageing married couple whose secure relationship is shattered, just before their 45th wedding anniversary, by the discovery of the body of the husband's former girlfriend, perfectly preserved in the ice of the Alps, where she fell 50 years before.

The following month, on **Thursday, 31st March**, we will be showing "Suffragette", a powerful and intense drama starring Carey Mulligan as a young woman who joins the growing suffragette movement fighting for the right to vote. This moving and involving film received the most votes of all the films suggested by

our members for the Spring programme.

Our 'Special Event' this Spring will feature one of the most memorable British films to be made during WW2, "In Which We Serve". Screened to mark the 75th anniversary of the sinking of HMS Kelly, the destroyer captained by Lord Louis Mountbatten and on whose exploits the film is based, it was the inspiration of Noel Coward, for which he received a special Oscar. Coward wrote the screenplay, composed the stirring musical score, starred as the ship's Captain and produced and co-directed with David Lean. This will take place on **Thursday, 14th April**.

On **Thursday, 28th April** we will be showing "The Lady in the Van", a delightful comedy/drama movingly adapted by Alan Bennett from his own memoir. The film stars the wonderful Maggie Smith, who gives a splendidly quirky performance as a determinedly eccentric and colourfully complex character who parks her van in Bennett's Camden driveway and stays for 15 years! This is a true story, and the film is a richly entertaining delight.

Our film on **Thursday, 26th May** will be Steven Spielberg's "Bridge of Spies", a Cold War thriller about the

negotiations to secure the release of U2 pilot Gary Powers in 1960s Berlin. Sentenced to 10 years in prison by the Soviets after they shot down his spy plane, Powers' only hope is New York lawyer James Donovan (Tom Hanks, in splendid form), recruited by the CIA to negotiate his release.

The season will end, on **Thursday 30th June**, with the highly likeable independent British film "x + y". Asa Butterfield is excellent as Nathan, a teen maths star whose autism disorders are worsened by the death of his father, making him retreat into the comforting world of numbers. But when he is entered for the maths Olympiad in Taipei, he finds his unemotional world rocked by an even more brilliant, beautiful maths genius from China. Everyone is welcome to attend the screenings, at which there is a licensed bar with light refreshments. Doors open at 7.00 p.m. and the films start at 7.30 p.m. For further information call Richard King on 01233 756592.



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Our Borough Councillor and Mayor of Ashford, Geraldine Dyer, updates us on how she has been helping Egerton

As you may know, mayoral duties have replaced my normal Council work since May 2015. Instead of sitting on committees and task groups, I have had the privilege to represent the Council at civic events, award ceremonies, ceremonial openings and a range of community activities in the Borough. This has been both enjoyable and informative, and it has given me an insight into the vital work done by groups and societies, usually on a voluntary basis, for the good of the community.

I have of course continued to carry out constituency work in Egerton and Smarden, and have attended the Parish Council meetings every month, which is an excellent way of keeping in touch with events in the villages and any issues or problems which are causing concern. I have also continued with the 'surgeries', and have met some parishioners on these occasions. Ashford Borough Council, by means of the Community Grant Scheme, allows borough councillors to give money to worthy causes in their ward. It has been a great pleasure to make money available to St James Church, for repair to the churchyard wall, the Playing Fields Committee for framing and displaying old photos, the Film



Society for a Blu Ray player, the Millenium Hall for redecoration and the Christmas Fair for Christmas tree lights.


Fundraising is an important part of my duties this year. My chosen charities are Pilgrims Hospice and Find a Voice, both Ashford based. Events such as a Diana Ross evening, a 60s themed dinner - dance and a Burns Night with piper, haggis slayer and ceilidh band have been fun, and I have advertised them in the village. On May 7th there will be a Beatles Tribute Band at the London Beach Hotel in Tenterden, and it would be great to see Egerton out in force. Posters will be on display in the Millennium Hall and the village shop.

How Geraldine can help

Each ward councillor has about £3,000 to allocate to projects within their ward. The minimum grant under this scheme is £100. The ward councillor can support either revenue funding, to pay for venue hire, or capital funding, for example to pay for the purchase of equipment. Any element of your project may be considered for funding as long as the project itself does not conflict with policies agreed by the Borough Council. You can find out more from the borough councillor, Geraldine Dyer. The scheme does not fund projects that have already been delivered or work that has already been carried out. Funding is available to cover costs for up to one year only, for any one project. Funding in future years will be dependent on Ashford Borough Council's budget in that year.

If you live in Egerton or Smarden and would like to discuss any Council related issue or planning application, I will be available on the first Tuesday of every month at the Egerton Millenium Hall from 10-11am,. I am always happy to receive emails or phone calls from residents who think I might be able to help.

Please contact: Geraldine Dyer on 01233 770213 or email: gdyer@ashford.gov.uk



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Church roof is re-battened for first time in over a century

Linde Ovington- Lee updates us on improvements to the Church

The good news is that the main roofs of the church have now been re-tiled and re-battened for the first time, as far as we know, for over a century. The first half of the work (north aisle) was done in late 2013 with the second (chancel and nave) being completed last October. Thanks again to The Friends and to the Hawksnest Charity for their help. With the Tower roof having been renewed ten years ago, we can now look forward to a long period without leaks.

The bad news is that our efforts to get permission from Canterbury to proceed with our plans for better facilities in the church to bring it up to 21st century standards (disabled access, toilet, refreshments counter and the opening of more space in the north aisle) have been frustrated.

While the need for these better facilities has been accepted, permission for this scheme has been refused. It is the beauty and integrity of the 14th century wall that is the problem, as a result of which no new doorway will be allowed. Other, less good, choices are being pursued. We shall keep the village informed.

As many of you will have seen, the church wall down to Stonebridge Green Road has been cleared of shrubs, saplings, etc., looking much better as a result. We must now try to keep it clear.

As John Lumley mentions in his appeal letter on page 31 our Christmas services were well attended. The church was full for



Carols; 77 came to the Carols, 77 came to the Crib service (84 last year); 59 to Midnight Mass (52 last year) and on Christmas morning 34 (38 last year). The school also played a major part in the church with a Christingle service, a Junior Carol service and a Key Stage 1 Nativity, all of which were attended by children, parents and grandparents, filling the church with joy.

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What's cooking?

Helen Baird runs Pluckley Farm Shop. Here she tells us what's in season and gives us a recipe for venison stew

Vegetables in season now include beetroot, brussel sprouts, cauliflower, celeriac, celery, chicory, horseradish, artichoke, kale, leeks, parsnips, potatoes, shallots, swede, cabbage, early forced rhubarb, and turnips. Many of these vegetables are grown in Kent. Various fruits are available from abroad including Seville oranges (for marmalade); blood oranges; satsumas and lemons.

Game is popular at this time of year. A venison stew using in season root vegetables provides a rich and warming meal. Try accompanying this with celeriac mash or potato mash with a little horseradish grated in it. Kale will add that splash of colour to the plate and provides high nourishing nutrients as well.

Good quality venison is tender, tasty and close textured, which means it's easy to produce great results using

simple recipes. Much of the venison produced in the UK is from deer that roam freely, rather than being intensively farmed, resulting in superior meat. Some of us are put off this meat because it is believed the deer may have been shot in the name of "sport". This is not necessarily the case. Kent has several free range deer farms.



Venison is higher in iron than any other red meat and a good source of omega 3. It has less fat than even a chicken.

Lastly – remember to shop locally!

Easy Venison Stew in your Slow Cooker

Ingredients: 800gm diced venison; olive oil; 2 onions; 1 clove of garlic; 3 carrots; 2 celery sticks cut in to cubes; butter; spring of fresh rosemary; 2 beef stock cubes and 600gms of diced potato;

Firstly; brown your meat and onions, using a splash of olive oil in a hot frying pan. Place the meat and onions in your slow cooker, together with all the other ingredients: carrots, celery, 1 crushed garlic clove, sprig of rosemary, a knob of butter and two crumbled stock cubes. Make sure you also add a few tablespoons of water to keep everything moist. Give everything a good stir, pop the lid on and cook the ingredients on a high setting for 30 minutes, or until it is good and hot. Add the diced potatoes and turn the heat down low to simmer for 2 hours, or until the meat falls apart. If you wish to add something different for a richer flavor, add half a tea spoon of brown sugar, a few crushed cranberries or juniper berries and a tablespoon of tomato puree. If the stew starts to look dry then add another splash of water.

Telephone box wears new red coat



Egerton Parish Council on behalf of the village would like to thank Steve Parr for his time, patience and dedication in giving the telephone box at Stonebridge Green a fresh coat of paint.

We think it looks great!

What we want to know, is what's going to happen next with the box?

Let's hear from the group who look after it to tell us more in the next issue.

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Can Yoga aid weight-loss?



Leonore Bunyard is an Iyengar Yoga Teacher and leads the popular yoga classes in the village hall. Here she tells us more...

Yoga is often thought of as a relaxing and rather sedentary form of exercise, one that reduces stress and alleviates musculo-skeletal problems, but not necessarily as a one-way ticket to a slimmer body. Both Nigella Lawson's revelations and scientific research rather contradict this view. Nigella recently stated that her current trim silhouette is the consequence of taking up "a rather slow form of yoga called Iyengar". She continues, "As you get on in life, you value feeling well as opposed to looking well. Yoga certainly makes you feel great, and you want to carry on feeling great. I just do a bit in a

very slow way - sometimes lying down."

And there is increasing scientific evidence to back up the view that yoga can be an effective way of controlling weight in both the short and the long term. One US study, involving 15,000 healthy men and women between the ages of 53 and 57, found that doing yoga significantly reduced Body Mass Index (BMI). The author of the study, Dr. Alan Kristal, associate head of the Cancer Prevention Program in the Public Health Sciences Division at the Hutchinson Centre said, "...we found that middle-age people who practice yoga gained less weight over a 10 year

period than those who did not. This was independent of physical activity and dietary patterns. We hypothesized that mindfulness - a skill learned either directly or indirectly through yoga - could affect eating behaviour".

The health benefits of a regular yoga practice do not stop at lowering BMI scores. In another US trial (Ornish et al, 1998), patients with moderate to severe coronary heart disease were divided into two groups. One group followed a regime with fairly major lifestyle modifications that included regular yoga practice, meditation and a vegetarian diet. The second group, the control group, followed the advice of their doctors regarding lifestyle changes.

Patients in the group doing yoga averaged a weight loss of almost 24 pounds over the first year, and they maintained more than half of this weight-loss five years later. Not only that, but LDL cholesterol levels went down by 37.2%, while anginal episodes reduced by 91% and their coronary arterial narrowing saw an average **reversal** of 2.2%. Compare this with the control group, whose LDL levels reduced but only by 6%; they also actually suffered a 165% increase in anginal episodes, and their coronary arteries continued to narrow by a further 3.4%. Dr Ornish stated: "the more yoga (was) practiced daily, the greater was the effect on the coronary arteries".

So is yoga a quick-fix? Well, sorry, but no. If you start yoga, you need to be prepared to be in for the long-haul. As teachers, we sometimes say that we work not in weeks but in decades. Results, which are not confined to heart health and weight-loss, can be remarkable; but they require dedication, consistency of practice and, above all, patience.

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An appeal to all from the Friends of St James

This letter is a heartfelt appeal.

Many of you were at St James for the Carol Service, when the church swelled with more than 200 people, and the old place was full of smiles and laughter and singing. There were about 80 people, many of them children this time, at the Crib Service and that again was full of warmth. However, most of the year, we struggle to reach more than twenty people for a normal service, sometimes even less. The few of us who regularly come along for the different services, most of whom are grey haired and on fixed incomes, pay what they can towards the church and give up their time to support it. Other occasional contributions, such as the generous share of the fete money last year, help enormously, but we have had to accept now that we are several thousand pounds short of what is needed annually for all the necessary expenditure to keep the life of our church going. The Friends of St James are a great

support, and fully endorse this appeal – and our church members are also members of The Friends. Their role is to protect the fabric of the church, the building, and it is obviously of utmost importance. However, the life and role of the church itself is paid for by the congregation. This has to fund its clergy, the cost (enormous) of insurance, heating, lighting, security, organ costs, repairs and so on – and the two figures of income and expenditure no longer meet. The people of Egerton, where St James is concerned, probably fall into five categories: the regular congregation; those who attend other churches; those who come at Easter and Christmas and other occasional days; those who attend christenings, weddings and funerals and, of course, school events which are held in the church; and additionally those others who would almost certainly hate to see the church close but for whom religion no longer, or has never, played a part in their lives. What



The packed Carol Service

would be the very best, as far as we at St James are concerned? Well, to see more people coming along to the church, filling it with warmth and music – and yes, supporting it financially on the way.

However, bearing in mind the busy lives and private opinions of so many these days, if you wish to see St James still alive and carrying on playing its part in the village, the next best thing would be some financial support, an annual donation to the church to help us survive. If any of you can see your way to helping in this way, would you please let us know? There are several of us who can be contacted: the two churchwardens, John Lumley and Linde Ovington-Lee, or Jan Burgess – or even through our village shop. **£2/month** (i.e. 24/annum) from just half the households in the village would go a long way to solving our problems, year on year.

Linde Ovington-Lee: linde-lee@yahoo.co.uk

John Lumley: jalumley@btinternet.com
Jan Burgess: jan@chrisandjanburgess.co.uk

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Cricket Club bowls into New Year!

Egerton Cricket Club had a most enjoyable and successful 2015 season.

The Sunday League team (captained by Steve Wellard), playing in Division 1 of the Kent Village League, finished a very creditable 5th (of 14) after a strong end to the season, winning their last 4 games with maximum points. Rob Sparkes starred with the bat scoring 679 (including 3 centuries) and averaging 97 over the League season. He was also top League wicket taker (with Rob Parnham) taking 15 wickets.

The Saturday X1 played 21 games during the season, winning 8, drawing 2 and losing 11. The Club fielded a 2nd XI (only the 2nd season this has happened since 1947) who played 8 matches winning 2, drawing 1 and losing 5.

75 people in total turned out for the Club during the season.



Cricket Week 2016

The triennial Cricket Week takes place this July (3rd -10th). Cricket Week was originally started to raise funds for a new Sports Pavilion. Now that the Pavilion is built, it raises funds to support the Club and also for local good causes and charities. The last Cricket Week in 2013 donated £500 towards buying defibrillators for Egerton.

Cricket Tour

The Club will be going 'on tour' to Wiltshire this year in the week of August 22nd.

Early season fixtures for the Club are currently as follows:

23 rd April	v Hawkinge (away)
30 th April	v Otterden (home)
7 th May	v Rolvenden (away)
8 th May	v Hawkinge (home)



There is now a popular and active Youth section who train from May to August on Thursday evenings. In 2015, they played their first competitive matches and have now entered the Ashford Junior League and will be playing a number of matches during the 2016 season. New youth members for the training and matches are always welcome! Contact Paul Hope for details on 07885 509751.

Cricket nets: practice nets have now started every Monday 7-8pm at Sutton Valence School. Contact Paul Hope for details.

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Church Christmas celebration



Atmospheric candlelight and mulled wine and mince pies added to the festive feel at Egerton's St James' Church traditional Christmas Carol Service held on the last Sunday before Christmas Day. A packed congregation heard readings of the Christmas Story and sang a selection of favourite carols. The service ended with a rousing rendition of *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* in tribute to Reverend Graham Silver who sadly died last year.

Next year's Egerton Music Festival will run from Wednesday 28th June to Sunday 2nd July 2017.

There's a lot to fit in the new five day format, but there will still be old favourites such as the jazz supper and the picnic in the garden, alongside another evening of songs from the shows (a sell-out in 2014) and first class chamber music from the brilliant London Bridge Trio (violin, cello and piano) and top students from the Royal Academy who will perform twice over the weekend of 2nd - 3rd July. Plus the opera, the last night, the fringe...and more!

For more information, or if you would be interested in becoming a Friend of the Egerton Music Festival, please contact Jane Carr (ljaneccarr@btinternet.com, or telephone 01233 756775).



Egerton's 2017 Music Festival

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July 2016 Music Date!

You don't have to wait until 2017 to enjoy live music in Egerton! The summer concert this year brings together five young Kent musicians who are now internationally recognised. The Sacconi Quartet (2 violins, viola and cello) will be joined by Freddy Kempf, a Kent-born pianist who also began his musical career in Kent but is now living in Europe, at a special event on **On Sunday 3rd July, 6.30pm.**

More details nearer the time but the Music Club promises this to be a special occasion, and not to be missed!

As Spring approaches change is in the air

Yvonne Fernando, Charing-based NLP Master Practitioner & Life Coach tells us more ...

Traditionally the New Year is all about change; everyone sets out to make their resolutions: to give up bad habits, set goals or try something new. Change is reflected in nature too, the days begin to get longer and the nights lighter - we glimpse the promise of the new with the emergence of spring. It's as though the world is waking up and with it we can see new opportunities and accept new challenges more easily.

However, it's important to be realistic too - according to Forbes, only 8% of people achieve their New Year's Resolutions. There are many reasons for this from going it alone without support, poor planning & time-management, unrealistic expectations, financial pressures, lack of self-belief & honesty to viewing issues from the wrong perspective. That said, it's a great time to reflect on what makes you happy and what you'd like to do differently with your life. It's important not to give yourself a hard time or focus on the negative - instead turn your thoughts to growth. You might feel stuck, need to change ingrained habits or let go of things that are holding you back. The secret is to slow down, refocus and develop a good understanding of what you would

like to change, how you will do that and what that change will do for you. Positive change can be at the very heart of happiness, growth and success. Generally, successful people are known for recognising the need for change. They are more likely to try new things, have self-belief, achieve goals and be resilient.

For long lasting, effective change, resilience is key as well as the ability to understand yourself and acknowledge the power of your own thoughts and actions. World-renowned psychologist, Carol Dweck, has shown in her research that children who learn about the capacity of their brain to process and adapt to change are much more able to deal effectively with disappointment and bounce back. So even the simple act of knowing and understanding your own capabilities, can make a difference.

One of the most effective ways to make positive change is through NLP (Neuro Linguistic Programming). Change isn't always easy, but working with a NLP coach is a powerful way to manage change effectively. NLP works on the way we process and respond to life, it can be used for anything we want to change or improve and is so effective because it is solution-focused. NLP enables people to tap into their

inner resources and to understand that they can manage and influence their own lives, when they know how.

NLP helps us to communicate, connect with and influence others and is perfectly suited for use with adults, children and organisations.. NLP can be used successfully for: wellbeing, confidence, life changes, anxiety, stress & depression, self-esteem, relationships, phobias, fears & traumas, grief & loss, allergies & addictions, work/life balance, eating disorders, and more. This powerful system can also offer a doorway to something deeper; once people know how they do what they do, they can fully understand their purpose in life and find the answers to true happiness and fulfilment.

Yvonne sees clients mainly at her private practice or at Charing Surgery and also runs workshops including NLP & Health and Creative Journaling, plus Relaxation Mindfulness Meditation courses throughout the year. If you'd like to make some positive changes this year, the next Relaxation Mindfulness Meditation course is an evening programme, commencing 9th March at Charing surgery.

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Runners hold AGM in Sports Pavilion



A well-earned supper followed Egerton Running Clubs' AGM held at the end of last month in the Sports Pavilion. Club Chairman, Mark Winter, reported it had been a good year in maintaining the purpose of the club to support members' running ambitions. The club has also supported a number of local events including: a Canterbury to Hollingbourne run, Headcorn Half Marathon, Egerton's Bluebell Run, the Rogation Ramble, the Ghosts of Pluckley Run and the annual Christmas Breakfast Run. The club has also introduced a regular Wednesday bike ride and held a fun Egerton Triathlon, last year. The Thursday night circuit training in the Games Barn has attracted many new participants so far this year. The club has also agreed to enter a team to support Hospice in the Weald's *It's a Knockout* event on May 14th. It costs just £15 a year to join the Club. Full details on www.egertonrunningclub.co.uk.



Egerton's County Councillor Charlie Simkins meets the Egerton WI at their February meeting and unveils the new Millennium Hall chairs, which were being used for the first time. They have been purchased by the Parish Council using a £6,550 Awards For All grant from the Big Lottery Fund, £1,000 from Kent County Council's Member Grant Fund, and a further £700 from the Village Hall Committee, which paid the extra cost of having a stain resistant fabric. They replace the old brown plastic chairs which have been in use since the hall was built in 1999.

Thinking of selling in Egerton this Spring?

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The Villages

News from your County Councillor

I am delighted to be asked to contribute to the first edition of *Egerton Update* which I know will be welcomed by all those living in Egerton as a vital point of communication.

As you probably know my responsibilities cover an area stretching from Challock down to High Halden, touching the west side of Ashford and comprising 12 Parish Councils.

My role is to work with them and the Borough Councillors to seek solutions to the diverse problems that arise. This is in addition to my duties at KCC, where I currently sit on six committees with varied responsibilities including the Environment, Planning and Finance. We all know that the economic background remains challenging for local authorities and indeed the local government settlement announced by Central Government in mid December was an unwelcome Christmas present for many local authorities.

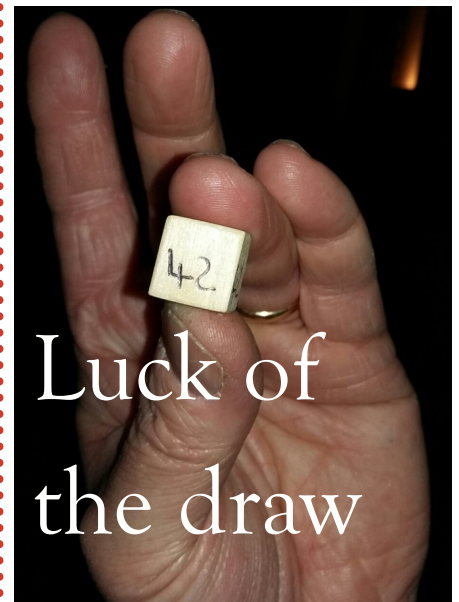
The redistribution of the Regional Support Grant away from the shire counties towards metropolitan districts has inflicted a further £15m loss for KCC which will make balancing the Budget for next year even more problematical.

I am aware that residents will be unhappy that KCC will be raising its share of Council tax by just under 4%, with half of this accounted for by the increase in expenditure on adult social care.

As we all know demographics make this a highly necessary expense. Increasingly the responsibility for spending on the elderly is being placed on local government, a trend which is all part of the devolutionary process. Thus, regrettably, the rise in Council tax is unavoidable. The crucial task for KCC is to keep services up to a



high standard whilst safeguarding the quality of life in our county which involves our national border thereby imposing additional challenges. In this context I would encourage all of you to participate in the consultations which come out on a wide range of issues. Current issues include the proposed lorry park at Stanford to relieve the problems of Operation Stack and the consultation on the proposed new Junction 10A on the M20. Experience of recent consultations, such as those on street lighting and Community Wardens where the force of public opinion caused the proposed reductions in staffing levels to be avoided, demonstrates that 'people power' does work! I am pleased to have been able to have been able to make a contribution from my Member's Grant towards the new chairs in Egerton Village Hall and the printing of the Parish Plan. I hope that you will contact me on my email charlie.simkins@kent.gov.uk if you have an issue which you think requires discussion.



Luck of the draw

The Sports Pavilion 100 Club raises money for the repair and maintenance of Egerton Sports Pavilion. If you are interested in joining the 100 Club, please contact Jonathan Elworthy on: 07802 499577 or by email:

info@egerton100club.org

January winners were:

£100 Mike Yarrow
£50 Millie Allen
£25 Alison McNaught
£25 Alan White
£25 Peter Elworthy

The February Draw will be held on Wednesday February 17th at 8pm in The Rose and Crown.

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The Garden in Spring



A regular column of a few tips and advice for the garden

APRIL

FEBRUARY

FLOWERS

Lightly trim winter flowering Heather when the flowers die off
Divide Snowdrops after flowering
Plant Lily of the Valley Crowns
Prune summer flowering shrubs

LAWNS

Keep off in frosty weather
Ensure the mower is serviced
Spike lawns to aid drainage

PLANTS AT THEIR BEST THIS MONTH

Rhododendron Praecox, Thuja 'Rheingold'
Corylus Avellana 'Contorta' (Contorted Hazel)
Helleborus Orientalis (Lenten Rose)
Garrya Elliptica 'James Roof' (Silktassel Bush)
Bergenia 'Abendglut' (Elephant's Ears)
Clematis Armandii

MARCH

FLOWERS

Finish pruning roses
Lift and divide snowdrops
Prune autumn flowering clematis
Deadhead and prune winter heathers
Feed rose bushes
Mulch any areas missed in the autumn
Cut back Cornus and Salix stems

LAWNS

Lay new turf when it is frost free
If seeding a lawn, prepare the area now
If cutting, cut with mower at highest setting

PLANTS AT THEIR BEST THIS MONTH

Helleborus Orientalis (Lenten Rose)
Camellia 'Donation'
Double Primula (Primrose)
Corydalis (Pere David)
Clematis Armandii

Now is the perfect time cut the grass with the lawn mower blades set high for the first few times. Then use a good lawn feed and weed killer. Also re-seed and re-turf any bald patches.

Thin out herbaceous plants, prune spring flowering shrubs once flowering has finished and trim evergreen hedges and shrubs.

In early April sow garden vegetables like potatoes, peas, broad beans, leeks, cauliflower, summer cabbage, brussel sprouts, onions, spinach, turnips, parsnips and lettuce outdoors. Other vegetables like cucumbers, courgettes and outdoor tomatoes can be sown under glass and runner beans can be started individually in 3 inch pots ready for planting in May.

Sow seeds of hardy annuals like nasturtium, calendula, lavatera and cornflowers.

Sprinkle rose fertiliser around roses and begin to spray them to control pests and diseases.

Feed all other plants in the garden using a slow-release fertiliser to improve plant flowering and growth. It's also an ideal time to plant strawberry plants in your garden.



Egerton Farmers' Market



Every Friday 2 - 4:30pm
Egerton Millennium Hall

Butchery, fish, all dairy products, cheeses, deli, honey, jams, chutneys, olives, fruit & vegetables, breads, cakes, plants, animal feeds & accessories, sweets & handmade chocolates, crafts, jewellery and books

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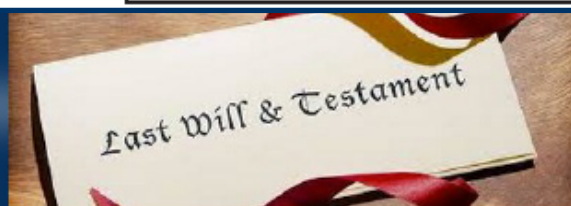
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Introducing the Friends of Egerton School

We are a team of hard working, dedicated parents that organise and run a busy and varied calendar of events throughout the school year to raise funds to support the education and learning environment for our children. In simpler terms we add the 'little extras' to school life that the school budget just can't stretch too!!

Annually we pay for coach transport for each class to have a trip, we contribute to taking the whole school to the Christmas pantomime at the Marlowe Theatre, and recently we have purchased a bank of iPads to enhance the children's learning along with a large number of books to expand our current reading scheme.

The teachers and children often come to us with a wish list, such as new playground games or sports equipment or simply some lego to form a club; we then fundraise to fulfil their wishes.

An extremely good fundraiser for us is the "Happy School Bag"

recycle collection which you will have already read about in the school update on page 7. Anyone can donate unwanted items such as clean clothing, paired shoes, handbags, belts, hats, bed-linen, towels, soft toys, jewellery or souvenirs. Place them in a bag bring them to school. The collections for this year are:

*13th April

*12th July

*18th October

In collaboration with Egerton Running Club we are also organising a Bluebell Run, which you will have read about on page 8, on Sunday 8th May. For more details see posters at school or contact:

www.egertonrunningclub.co.uk

Following a hugely successful event last year we are repeating our Quiz & Pimms Evening at the Millennium Hall, on Saturday June 10th at 7.30pm. Quiz teams are max 8 and there is a licensed bar.

For tickets contact bonitamboyd@gmail.com



Finally, we are holding a Valentines Disco for the children at school and hosting a fun Easter Fair on the last day of term.

We hope this has given a little insight into our work and how the money is well spent. Any fundraising ideas would be gratefully received and seeing you at some of our events would be lovely too. Watch this space for dates of future events.



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Your Parish Council Reports

This section has been written to give you a flavour of the meetings and find out some of the projects being undertaken by Egerton Parish Council. The full minutes are available on the Parish Council Website

DECEMBER MINUTES

Footpaths and stiles: A tree has fallen blocking the footpath along from Molly's steps. This will be checked and if possible cleared. If not, KCC Public rights of way will be contacted. An unofficial footpath along New Road has been blocked off, the proper footpath starts at New Road opposite Stone Hill and goes through the old allotments into the orchard. The two stiles are very difficult for walkers and a request has been made for KCC to be asked if they will replace

these stiles with kissing gates. Also once into the orchard from this footpath it is very difficult to establish where the correct route is. The footpaths officer will waymark the route more clearly.

KCC has requested that the stile from the footpath along side Rock Cottage into Rock Hill Road should be removed and staggered posts be erected instead. Concern was raised that this would be insufficient to stop children and animals running into the road and it should in fact be a stile or gate.

Highways: Some hedges have been cut back but some are still overgrown along New Road. Land owners would be contacted. The chevrons at Brook Gate, Bedlam Lane have been installed. The drain at Stonebridge Green Road is still blocked and would be reported again. A site meeting will be held with Darren Anderson from KCC Highways to identify urgent issues within the Parish.

Parish Plan: The Plan has been printed and there will be a meeting between the Parish Plan committee and Councillors to



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officially agree it. Copies will be delivered to every house.

Community Assets: Paperwork has been completed to make the shop a community asset

Mobile phone signal: Matt Smith had a meeting with EE to decide whether roll out would go ahead. Follow up to discussions to be reported soon.

Broadband speeds: New cables are being laid around the village and BT have many vans around the junction box at the Forstal. There is a report within the latest newsletter which is being delivered around the village this week.

Weeds: The Clerk will ask Jim Steers to trim long weed areas within the car park then to weed kill in the Spring.

Welcome packs: The Welcome Pack has been updated. It was suggested when a Welcome pack is delivered to new residents that a copy of the Parish Plan and the Village design statement should be delivered as well.

Drainage: The estimate received from Aaron Frater to remedy the problem with the drain near to the committee room is to be accepted. The costs for the works will be £950 including VAT. The Clerk will contact Aaron and discuss when the work will commence.

Trees: Residents of Willow Farm are concerned about the height of trees along Stonebridge Green

Road especially in view of the recent high winds. Darren Anderson would be informed during the highways visit.

Bags at Stonebridge Green- These are recycling bags that are being piled up ready for collection. They are not removed for a few days and are an eyesore. This will be reported to Ashford Borough Council.

JANUARY MINUTES

Footpaths and stiles: The fallen tree at Molly's Steps is to be sorted by the school as it is on school land. The school are to have a number of trees topped which grow along the footpath. The gate to the left of Rock Hill House leading to Link Hill is difficult to open as it has a broken post at the hanging side. There are still some footpaths across ploughed fields that have not been re-instated. The gate at Appleberry Farm is locked and blocking the footpath.

Highways: Following the site visit with KCC, no progress has yet been made on the drain at Field Mill/Coach Road. The Clerk will contact them and ask this to be put as a priority as it is dangerous. The culvert under the road along Chapel Lane has collapsed and is spilling water down the road. This will become a hazard if the weather gets very cold. The edges of the road along Crocken Hill Road near to Island Farm are collapsing away and making it dangerous for vehicles. These will also be reported to KCC as a priority

Parish Plan: The booklet has now been delivered out to villagers. The Parish Plan committee would like to hold a meeting with EPC to discuss matters arising from the plan.

Community Assets: The application to register the village shop as an Asset of Community Value has been returned by ABC as the map submitted did not match the one held by the Land Registry. Richard will contact the land registry for a clearer map.



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Drainage: The Clerk will contact Aaron Frater to find out when the works will commence on the drain near to the committee room of the village hall

Bags of rubbish: There have been a number of bags left at Stonebridge Green ready for collection on recycling day. It has been reported that the bags are being left for longer than necessary and this will be followed up by our Borough Councillor.

Parish magazine: A sub committee of the Parish Council are to produce a new magazine for Egerton village to take the place of the *Egerton with Pluckley Parish Magazine*. A new bank account has been set up to take advertising money and to keep it separate from the Parish Council accounts. The magazine, when produced, will be quarterly, full colour, A4 and will be distributed free to all properties within Egerton. It is hoped the advertising will cover all costs and any surplus will go to good causes around the

village. Copy date for each edition will be on the fourth Monday of the previous month for news and the third Wednesday of previous month for adverts. An email address has been set up egertonupdate@gmail.com.

The printing of the magazine will be A4 glossy, and will follow the tender process. A quote has been received from Printbig (who currently print the newsletter for Egerton). Bison Print and one other company will be approached for quotes.

Parish Assembly: The date has been set 17th March at 7.30pm in the Millennium Hall. The Clerk will inform all clubs/societies and book the hall.

Commonwealth Flag Day All has been booked ready for 14th March.

Queen's 90th birthday Beacons are to be lit on 21st April

Spring Clean This will be held on Saturday 2nd April at 10.00am.

PARKING IN STISTED WAY

The Parish Council has already agreed to pursue a TRO to regulate parking in Stisted Way. Our suggestion is a single yellow line along both sides of the road with restrictions between 8-10am and 2.30-4.30pm. Although the TRO procedure will involve official consultation of local residents, the Parish Council would like to hear from residents prior to application to ensure that what is applied for is suitable and viable.

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Richard King (Chairman)

Peter Rawlinson (Vice-Chairman)

Jennifer Buchanan

Claire Foinette

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A little update from...

... the Gardening Group at Charing Surgery!

If you have been down to the Surgery recently you may have noticed that the Gardening Group were very busy during 2015 and have completely transformed 2 plots of land. We now have a lovely seating and meeting area, raised beds planted with fruit and vegetables, a woodlands area and have just started a rose walk and planted our first asparagus.

Gardening magazines and the press have all recently been promoting the fact that Gardening is good for your health. And this is exactly what the Gardening Group at Charing Surgery is about. There is lots of evidence that shows gardening can help you both physically and mentally on lots of different levels. We were excited to have been inter-viewed by Martin

Buchanan and Andy Garland on the Sunday morning gardening show on B B C

Radio Kent. And we're very proud to be seen to be 'ahead of the curve' as Gardening for Health becomes more popular and the benefits better recognised.

The Group has just celebrated its first anniversary, and everyone has found the experience to be most rewarding, not only for the physical aspects but also the friendships that have been made.



This year we look forward to welcoming new members and see the fruits of our labour (literally!!).

The Group meets each Tuesday between 9.30am- 11.30am. You don't have to have "green fingers" to get involved. Why not pop along and have a chat or give Jo'anne a call on 01233 713582 and come and join us.

Are you tough enough?

The preschool mums are raising money for Egerton Preschool by undertaking a 10 mile obstacle course in the mud! Any fitness level welcome —it's about fun not coming first! The "Tough Mudder" event takes place on Sunday 25th September in Crawley . Please contact Esther if you are interested: 01233 756058 or esthercohen@hotmail.com

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Rich Gordon	21
WGJ Plumbing	36
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Rubbish Removal	
J Skilton 4 Rubbish	34
Shops	
Egerton Farmers Market	37
Egerton Village Stores	40
Pluckley Farm Shop	29
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Solicitors	
Kingsfords	12
Maidstone Wills & Trusts	37
Thorneloe & Co	42
Window Cleaner	
Luke Epps	28

VILLAGE DIARY

Regular Weekly

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1pm Mother & Toddler (VH) 6pm Yoga (VH) 7pm Short Mat Bowls (GB) 7.45pm Yoga (VH)	9am ERC (SP) 11am Egerton Friends (Rose & Crown Pub) From 2.30pm Library (See schedule) 6pm ERC (cycling - see website)	1.30pm Yoga (VH) 7pm ERC Circuits (GB)	8.45am ERC (SP) 9.30am Pilates (GB) 1.30 Short Mat Bowls (GB) 2pm Farmers Market (VH)	10am - 12pm Telecottage	9am ERC (see website)

February 2016

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2 10am Borough Councillor (VH) 8pm EPC (VH)	3 7.30pm Women's Institute (VH)	4	5	6 10.30 Laughing Club (VH)	7
8 2pm Over 60s (VH)	9 10.30 Laughing Club (VH) 1pm Mother & Toddlers Valentine Party (VH)	10 7pm Chill for Young Adults 15-19 (The Vicarage) 7.30pm WI Table Tennis (VH)	11	12	13	14 St Valentine's Day ERC: Headcorn Half-Marathon
15	16	17 10.30am Pluckley Gardening Society - Snowdrops at Spring Platt (PVH)	18	19	20	21
22 7pm Egerton Players AGM (VH)	23 8pm Egerton Folk Club (Queens Arms Pub)	24 7pm Chill for Young Adults 15-19 (The Vicarage) 7.30pm WI Table Tennis (VH)	25 7.30 Film (VH) Egerton Society	26 7pm ERC AGM (SP)	27 10.30 Laughing Club (VH)	28
29						

Key to diary: Venues

VH = Village Hall
GB = Games Barn
SP = Sports Pavilion
PVH = Pluckley Village Hall
SJC = St James' Church

Key to diary: Clubs & Societies

EPC = Egerton Parish Council
ERC = Egerton Running Club
EMC = Egerton Music Club
ECC = Egerton Cricket Club

March 2016

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1 10am Borough Councillor (VH) 8pm EPC (VH)	2 7.30pm Women's Institute (VH)	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 7pm Chill for Young Adults 15-19 (The Vicarage) 7.30pm WI Table Tennis (VH)	10	11 7.30pm Weald of Kent Protection Society Quiz (VH)	12 2pm Church Jumble Sale (GB)	13
14 Commonwealth Flag Day 2pm Over 60s (VH).	15	16 6.45pm Pluckley Gardening Society (VH)	17 7.30pm Parish Assembly (VH)	18	19 7.30pm Scouts Quiz (VH)	20
21	22	23 7pm Chill for Young Adults 15-19 (The Vicarage) 7.30pm WI Table Tennis (VH)	24	25 Good Friday	26	27 Easter Sunday
28 Easter Monday	29 8pm Egerton Folk Club (Queens Arms Pub)	30	31			

April 2016

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2 10am Village Clean Up	3
4	5 10am Borough Councillor (VH) 8pm EPC (VH)	6 7pm Chill for Young Adults 15-19 (The Vicarage) 7.30pm Women's Institute (VH)	7	8	9 10.15am Pluckley Gardening Society (PVH) 10.30am Laughing Club (VH)	10
11 2pm Over 60s (VH)	12	13 MAGAZINE COPY DATE Happy Bag Collection (School) 7.30pm WI Table Tennis (VH)	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 7pm Chill for Young Adults 15-19 (The Vicarage)	21 Queen's Birthday Beacon	22	23	24
25	26 8pm Egerton Folk Club (Queens Arms Pub)	27 7.30pm WI Table Tennis (VH)	28	29 Bushcraft week-end	30 7.30pm EMC Canterbury Choristers (SJC)	

Useful Village Contacts List

Council

Member of Parliament	Damian Green	01233 820911
County Councillor	Charlie Simkins	01233 756705
Borough Councillor	Geraldine Dyer	01233 770213
Parish Councillors:	Richard King (Chairman), Peter Rawlinson (Vice Chairman), Jennifer Buchanan, Claire Foinette, Ambrose Oliver, Tim Oliver, Pat Parr, Alison Richey, Rob Walker	
Parish Clerk	Heather James	01233 756501
Tree Warden	Peter Rawlinson	01233 756393

Church

G7 Benefice Rector	Revd Sheila Cox	01233 712598
Youth & Families Minister:	Mim Oliver	07725 112141
Egerton Free Church	Revd Ambrose Oliver	01233 756459
Egerton Churchwardens:	John Lumley	01233 756249
	Linde Ovington-Lee	01233 756572
	Jan Burgess	01233 756147
	Priscilla Harper	01233 756437
	Mike Yarrow	01233 756387
	Dick Crabb	01233 756517
	Sarah Widd	01233 756460

Schools & Playgroups

Egerton Primary School	Lee Selby (Headteacher)	01233 756274
Egerton Pre-School	Emily Leggat (Manager)	07773 600982
Egerton Mother & Toddler Group	Kimmy Burbridge	01622 891201

Clubs & Organisations

Air Training Corps (Ashford Squadron)		01233 637035
Bethersden Cub Scouts	Mary Ford	01233 820989
Egerton Film Society	Richard King	01233 756592
Egerton Housing Association	Sue Palmer	01233 756266
Egerton Music Club	John Fraser	01233 756254
Egerton Telecottage	Carol Hulm	07990 574214
Egerton Players	Vanessa Perrin	01622 851854
Egerton Over Sixties Club	Jenny/Theo Oliver	01233 756452
Egerton Village Hall Bookings	Dee Harper	01233 756416
Egerton Women's Institute	Gale King	01233 756592
Headcorn Scout Group	Ann Carroll	01622 890061
Weald of Kent Protection Society	Gale King	01233 756592

Sport

Egerton Games Barn Bookings	Joan Smyth	01233 840362
Egerton Sports Pavilion Bookings	Bill Smyth	01233 840362
Egerton Cricket Club	Paul Hope	07885 509751
Egerton Football Club	Geoff Wickens	01233 756453
Egerton & Pluckley Junior Football Club	John Harrison	01233 840822
Egerton Running Club	Sarah Elworthy	01233 756205
Egerton Short Mat Bowls	Mike Yarrow	01233 756387
Egerton Walking Group	Claire Foinette	01233 756714

Emergencies, Care & Services

Ashford Borough Council (emergency out-of-hours 629911)		01233 637311
Ashford Citizen's Advice Bureau	www.ashfordadvice.org	01233 626185
Doctors' Surgeries	Charing	www.charingpractice.co.uk
	Headcorn	www.headcornsurgery.nhs.uk
Dog Warden	Colin Leek	01233 330340
Electricity	EDF	0800 783 8866
Fly tipping	Kent Waste Watch	0845 345 0210
Gas Leaks	British Gas	0800 111 999
Highway Services	www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel	
Hospital	William Harvey	01233 633331
Neighbourhood Watch	Lois Tilden	01233 756221
NHS Direct	www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk	111
Police Community Support Officer	Paul Moorey	0777 2226142
Police Non-Emergency		101
South East Water (supply) (emergency 0845 603 2603)	leak line	0800 614 366
Southern Water (sewerage)	blockages, pumping station failure	0845 278 0845

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Martin Wilkinson Dip CII (ER & MP) – Principle Director
Nicky Ridgewell – Client Relationship Manager

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