

EGERTON UPDATE

The quarterly magazine for the village of Egerton, Kent

Issue 19 August 2020

Not all gloom and doom

EPC Chairman, Richard King, writes:

The last few months have been a difficult and challenging time for everyone. For many of us, the cancellation of virtually every event in the village, including all regular meetings of our village organisations and societies, the planned VE/VJ day celebrations and other events such as the Egerton Music Festival (now to be a smaller Festival in 2021) has been a sad blow which has deprived villagers of all the usual opportunities to get together.

However, it is not all doom and gloom, and our local clubs and societies are looking forward to the time when they can start up again, although most have decided not to do so until it is safe to carry on running their activities in exactly the same enjoyable way that they've always done. The Millennium Hall committee has issued strict guidelines for those wishing to use the hall at the present time, but it seems unlikely that current restrictions will be fully eased for some months yet. Meanwhile, not all activities have come to a halt, with some organisations such as the Egerton Players and the Arts Society arranging 'virtual' events and 'get-togethers' using the internet through emails, Zoom or Microsoft Teams, allowing them to keep in touch with their members. The Parish Council and its various Working Groups have also continued to 'meet' using these means since the lockdown began in March. Another example of an activity that has kept going is the village wall hanging project, where members of the group have been working away at home on individual pieces of embroidery.

The start of the cricket season in the village has already brought life back to the recreation ground, and the children's play area is open again. The regular Friday Farmers Market continues, adhering to government guidelines and socially distanced, outdoors in the Millennium Hall car park. A new 'pop-up' Post Office is now successfully operating from the Computer Centre at the Millennium Hall on Tuesdays (10.00-12.00am) and Fridays (2.00-4.00pm) and at least one of our pubs, the 'Rose and Crown' is open again. In addition, the school will be welcoming back all children at the beginning of September. There is also hope that our village shop may be revived in the not too distant future and not become just a memory. Hopefully, a protective vaccine will eventually be developed, but until then it is probable that varying levels of lockdown will have to continue, particularly for older people and those who are most vulnerable. Meanwhile, many in the village are doing their best to ensure that everyone is kept safe, volunteering to collect food and medicine, offering other help, and working together to make sure that when all this is over the rich variety of social life in Egerton can go on as before.



Richard King

Inside this issue: * Egerton's socially distanced VE Day celebrations * Thank you volunteers * Strange happenings in nineteenth century Egerton * EPC Meeting minutes



VJ Picnic Cancelled...

Egerton's planned VE/VJ Day Picnic, scheduled for Saturday August 15th has been cancelled.

Due to the on-going Covid-19 crisis the organising committee felt they had no choice but to pull the plug on the event which had been planned as an outdoor picnic with music entertainment and refreshments. The current Covid-19 regulations around holding large public events would not allow the organisers to hold the event in the way they would like. The organisers also felt that many veterans would not want to attend a large event as the restrictions continue. The organising committee is hoping to hold a celebration in 2021 when hopefully lockdown and social distancing rules will have eased.

... as VE Day celebrated safely with style



Residents put up the bunting, donned their 1940s finest and joined their neighbours (at a safe distance) to commemorate VE Day 75 on May 8th. Egerton Farmers Market offered cream teas on the day and played 1940s music to help set the scene as the country remembered the huge sacrifice made by so many during the War Years. See page 5



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Village rallies to support vulnerable during lockdown

When the national lockdown for the covid-19 outbreak came into effect in March, Egerton's Emergency Resilience Plan swung into action immediately.

Even though a virus outbreak and national lockdown weren't what was envisaged when the Emergency Plan was first devised by Egerton Parish Council five years ago, it still proved to be an effective and workable strategy that quickly mobilised a volunteer force of residents to assist vulnerable residents in the parish.

The community's Emergency Plan was designed to enable the village support itself when outside assistance from the emergency services or the local authority was delayed or overwhelmed by some kind of a catastrophe.

The Plan already had on standby a roster of volunteers who could provide assistance for 'typical' emergencies, such as flooding, heavy snow, utilities or services failures, gas leaks or explosions – even aircraft accidents – mostly people in the village who could offer specialist equipment such as four-wheel drive vehicles, chainsaws, generators, trailers, JCBs and tractors.

The Emergency Plan committee hoped that it would never have to activate the plan but wanted to provide reassurance that there was a plan in place just in case of the worst.

In March, the committee realised that volunteers would be needed to help vulnerable residents to cope with the challenges of a lockdown, such as with shopping and obtaining medication. An important aspect which cropped up was loneliness caused by a side effect of the lockdown – extended periods of isolation.

An appeal went out to the existing volunteers and anyone else who could offer assistance and the committee soon found itself in the fortunate situation of having over 25 people who came forward to help.

Initially, 50 of the most vulnerable people were approached by the volunteers, posting an 'offer

of assistance' card through their doors, to identify if any of the people needed support with the lockdown challenges.

But the scale of the volunteer response allowed the committee to identify a further 50 people who could potentially need some help.

While many of the 100 people didn't need to take up the offer of assistance from the volunteers, as many had their own established circle of family and friends assisting them, the volunteers did have many acceptances of help with shopping and collecting prescriptions.

Some of the vulnerable residents also took up the offer of a friendly chat and to hear reassurance that there was someone who could help if needed.

Ashford Borough Council worked hard to ensure its Volunteer Service kept in touch with the Egerton Emergency Plan committee to offer help if it was overwhelmed. But as so often is the case, our village went quietly and efficiently about managing its own wellbeing.

As the country and our village have adapted to the challenges presented by the virus outbreak, volunteer support has not been required much in recent weeks. However, the possibility of a second wave of covid-19 needs to be anticipated and so plan is for the team of volunteers to be contacted again later in the year to ascertain if they would be willing once again to step forward should the vulnerable residents of the village need support.



Village Diary dates: Music Festival, Fete & Cricket Week

As the on-going Covid-19 crisis has meant the cancellation of many events this year in the village calendar, there has been a change to the "rota" of annual events going forward.

In 2021 the village will now be holding the Music Festival (which was scheduled to take place in the Summer of 2020). Details of this are on page 11. The Village Fete (which was scheduled for Summer 2021) will now take place in 2022 and will dovetail with "Cricket Week". The exact dates that these events will now be held will be announced in due course.

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.

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Village Hall Hub



Village notices are now being displayed in a smart new noticeboard situated outside the village hall. The noticeboard was made by Martin Lee (martin@maypoleconstruction.org) and was paid for with grants from county and local councillors, Charlie Simkins and Ken Mulholland among others.

POST
OFFICE

Thanks to the efforts of the Village Shop Sub Committee of Egerton Parish Council the village now has a Pop Up Post Office based in the Village Hall every Tuesday from 10am -12noon and on Friday from 2pm -4pm.
The Pop-up Post Office offers a wide range of Post Office services.



The Village Hall Committee has been working hard towards tentatively reopening the Millennium Hall in line with official advice on Covid19. Chairman Sue Johnson says there are still many restrictions and a copy of its Covid Guidelines can be found on the Hall's webpage to help you decide whether a booking would be possible. Parties and weddings are not permitted at the moment.

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Lockdown limited celebrations but village put on VE Day Show

Despite the national restrictions caused by Covid-19, VE 75 Day didn't go unmarked in the village—with safely distanced celebrations, dressing up, cream teas and decorated houses just some of the ways we invoked the “end of WW2 spirit”. Although events across the country had to be cancelled—including the VE Day 75 party planned for Egerton—residents didn't allow this significant day go past un-noticed. Houses were decked with bunting, residents donned vintage clothing and socially-distanced cream teas and picnics marked the day as the next few pages show...



Residents around the village festooned their houses in red, white and blue



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Homes were decorated with bunting and flags bringing some welcome colour to the village while we battled our own modern-day crisis.....



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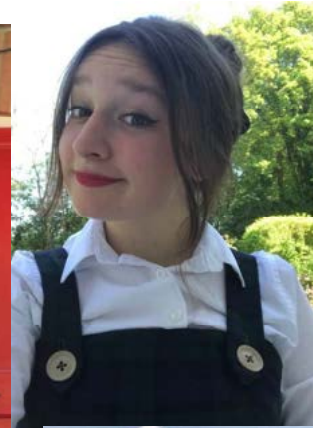
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Some villagers entered into the spirit and got all dressed up (even though we couldn't go very far) and enjoyed the spirit of the era—with family picnics and a 1940s inspired trip to the Farmers' Market



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From Egerton to Chinon

Former Egerton residents Alan and Sue Croft (*Sue is pictured*) tell us about their life in France

As some of you may remember, in 1994 Alan and I moved from the north-west of England to live closer to my parents. Having secured jobs in Kent, we were fortunate to find a lovely old barn in Egerton as a wonderful home for the next 13 years. However, we had always loved France and in 2002 we bought another old barn in a village where we had previously spent holidays. Our French language skills weren't great, but during the renovation of this ruin our vocabulary expanded. We learnt many useful words and phrases: for example 'fosse septique' (septic tank), 'votre propriété n'a pas de fondations' (your property has no foundations) and, inevitably 'la coût a augmenté' (the cost has increased) ! Having renovated the property, when we retired we decided to make it our permanent home. The house is in a small village in the Loire Valley, known as the Garden of France, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to its natural beauty and its many examples of Renaissance architecture. The area shares some history with England, as for almost 500 years, the kings and queens of England also claimed the throne of France. We live near Chinon, the home of Henry II and the setting for that wonderful film 'The Lion in Winter' (an idea, Richard, for the Film Society ?). This, together with 'La Loire a Velo' an 800 km cycle route nearby, attracts lots of tourists. As I am sure you can imagine Alan loves



nothing better than to drive through the leafy lanes in the summer sharing the route with some of the 1 million cyclists and a legion of motorhomes and caravans which arrive here every year ! The village in which we live, has many similarities with Egerton. It has around 1400 people, a Church, a school, a bar, a butcher's and a small co-operative grocers. With just a holiday home, it was difficult to make friends, but being here full-time has helped our integration into village life. Over the years we have become involved in numerous activities. Alan has become a trombonist in the local orchestra. There was a time when the orchestra were leading the dignitaries in a commemorative event, when a gust of wind blew Alan's music and in trying to hold onto the music, the slide of his trombone fell out onto the road. He was left trying to hold onto the music and pick up his slide whilst the firemen, gendarmes and local Mayors piled up behind him ! I have become a 'Greeter' showing English-speakers around the town of Chinon. I was explaining to a small group once about Joan of Arc, mentioned a date and someone in the group said "As a professor of medieval history, I think you're a few years out". I now avoid mentioning dates ... For the last eight years we have been involved in the local primary school, taking four classes for a lesson

each week to improve their English and their knowledge of the culture of english-speaking countries. The children know much more about the Royal Family than we do. We have also found ourselves on the committees of the local co-operative grocers, a group trying to restore an ancient Church and various other things. The French are known for their lack of discipline and in the meetings (which always start late and have no agenda), at the theatre, the cinema everyone continues to have conversations and to talk across everyone else. In May 2019 after a very lengthy process we became French citizens, so now have dual nationality. We had some very happy years in Egerton but are now enjoying our new life in France. Every day presents a new challenge.



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Thanks from Sheila and family

Sheila Palmer has written her grateful thanks from her and her family:

"Sheila and family wish to thank everyone for the most wonderful support you gave us during our very sad loss. Nearly 200 cards were received and although we have thanked many of you for your kind messages, we would like to thank the rest of you here.

It was so overwhelming reading the messages. These cards are now stored in a beautiful gold box and will always be available for us to read and to cherish for years to come. We did so appreciate the wonderful attendance at the Crematorium, which included Alan's film of his 90th birthday Spitfire flight, the Church service and the Wake, donations which amounted to £1,200 which R.A.B.I (Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution) were most grateful to you all.

I will shortly be moving into a large house with Jo, Ian and family which has an annex – which, I'm having!! It is in Hythe Road, Willesborough – I'm just waiting for my new kitchen, wet room and lift to be installed. Fortunately I'll be on a bus route which will be fine when I eventually retire from driving – I'm almost 90 so that won't be long!!

While I'm writing here, I would like to thank my family, Sue and John and many others in Egerton who find time to ring me for a chat, shop and check on my health and make life passable during this 'isolation'. Thank you."

egertonupdate@gmail.com

The next issue of Egerton Update will be distributed in November 2020. Between now and then we welcome your contributions. We would also love to receive details of what you have been up to over the Summer months and what is coming up in Egerton during the Winter.

All you need do is email your contribution to egertonupdate@gmail.com. The final copy date for editorial contributions will be October 13th 2020.

Clear Highways

KCC writes:

Every year throughout the spring and summer KCC Highways & Transportation receive numerous complaints regarding trees, hedges and other vegetation, which overhang the highway from private property. This matter can pose a number of problems for people trying to use the footways, especially if they are trying to pass with buggies, wheelchairs and scooters. It would be greatly appreciated if you could ensure that any trees and hedges that are bordering the Highway are maintained and cut back to your boundary which would greatly benefit all Highway users. This will help us all keep the highway safe and prevent the need for KCC Highways & Transportation writing to you requesting that you cut back your vegetation.

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 - * If your property is rural, then vegetation should be 0.45 metres/1.5 feet behind the edge of the road and all signs need to be kept clear of foliage.

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Strange things can happen....



While researching local history, Egerton resident Martin Webb, came across these strange stories connected to our village—one concerning a wild man living in a lonely shed and the other reporting the death of a 14 month old child from a ferret attack. Both events occurred in the nineteenth century...

CAPTURE OF A "WILD MAN."—An extraordinary character has been captured in a lonely shed at Egerton, Kent, in the person of Frederick Naasch, a Belgian soldier, who for some months has been wandering about the Weald of Kent, clothed in rags, and living on roots, berries, and offal. His appearance when apprehended was grotesque in the extreme. The article which did duty for a coat consisted of patches of old rags quilted over and over again, in many places to the thickness of an inch. His nether clothing was of the same description, and these were his sole attire. He was barefooted, and carried a quantity of stinking fowls' legs, some putrid flesh, and pieces of fish in a pair of worn shoes, which he had under his arm. One good habit he retained, for a piece of soap was found upon him when apprehended. He was sentenced by the Ashford magistrates to ten days' imprisonment, but was too ill to be removed. The Belgian Consul at Dover has been communicated with, and the poor fellow will be received by that gentleman and sent on to Ostend as soon as he can be removed.

A CHILD KILLED BY A FERRET.—The death of a child from injuries committed upon it by a ferret is reported from Egerton, Kent. It seems that a few evenings ago, a labouring man named Chambers quitted home with his wife, leaving an infant, 14 months old, in the house. In their absence, a stray ferret got into the room where the child was lying, and attacked it. When the parents returned home, they found the infant dead; its eyes were removed, and part of the nose had been gnawed away. When discovered, the ferret flew at Chambers, and appeared very wild and ferocious. It was killed as speedily as possible. The presumption is that the ferret had been "laid up" in a rabbit hole near, and, pressed by hunger, had strayed into the house in quest of food.

Jackson's Oxford Journal 26 Dec 1868 The 'Wild Man' Daily News 13 Oct 1869 Child killed by ferret



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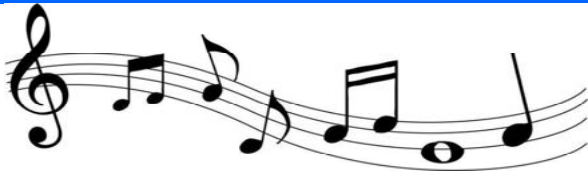
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Music Festival in 2021



Good News! The organisers of Egerton's Music Festival are now making plans for a music festival in June next year (2021) and hope that the programme will be very similar to the events they had planned for this year's event—which unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the ongoing Covid-19 crisis.

The organising are planning a Picnic in the Garden and Jazz Supper, on Saturday 12th June; and at last night concert in the church on Sunday June 13th. The music quiz and other events will be announced shortly.

Some performances have already been booked for the 2021 event—Opera Brava will perform *La Traviata* on Thursday 10th June and the Sacconi Quartet will be performing on Friday 11th June – and on Sunday 6th June the London Mozart Players, with Jane Wisely as soloist, will give the concert which cannot now take place on 3rd October this year.

So we will have a Festival in 2021 but the organisers would still welcome more ideas for events, so please contact Jane Carr, Secretary, with your ideas, and make a note of the dates - 6th – 13th June 2021. (ljaneccarr@btinternet.com; www.egertonmusicfestival.co.uk tel:756775.

Neighbourhood Plan Update

Our Neighbourhood Plan Committee writes:

Thank you! We have received over 40 detailed responses to the draft Neighbourhood Plan and are very grateful for the time and thoughtfulness that has been given to them. They have all been collated and added to the over 50 received after the November 2019 public meeting. They are now being analysed and will inform the final draft of the Plan which we hope to submit to Ashford Borough Council by the end of September.

The current national guidelines for Neighbourhood Planning mean that we will not be able to hold a referendum until May 2021, but the Steering Group hope that the period of public consultation through Ashford Borough Council, and the Examination which follows public consultation, can be completed well before then.

We will now begin formal consultation with statutory bodies outside the parish, so there is still time for final comments over the next 6 weeks.

Covid has disrupted work on the Plan, as it has so many aspects of our lives; but it remains as important as ever to the future of our village. So please get in touch if you have any further comments or questions.

(ljaneccarr@btinternet.com, The Granary, Newland Green; lois@tilden.eclipse.co.uk, Potters Forstal Farm, Egerton Forstal). Printed copies of the draft Plan are also available outside the Barrow House, Rose and Crown and Queens Arms near the bus stop, the telephone kiosk in the Street and the red telephone kiosk at Stonebridge Green.

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Egerton Film Society—back in 2021

Since the coronavirus lockdown began in March the Film Society have really missed holding their monthly film shows at the Millennium Hall, and the committee are looking forward to the time when they can start up Egerton's own cinema again. The committee have agreed that this should not happen until it is really safe to do so, and they can run the film evenings in exactly the same enjoyable way that they've always done, with wine and refreshments and no social distancing! Currently, the Film Society committee believe that this will not be possible until sometime in the new year, when present restrictions have been relaxed and hopefully a protective vaccine has been developed. Meanwhile, members annual subscriptions will be 'frozen' from last March until things start up again, which means that every member will still have six months' membership remaining when our next season of films begins.

Film Society looks forward to seeing everyone at their film evenings once more, and once it's been decided when this will be, a new programme will be published in the usual way. So if there are any films - new or old - that you would particularly like to see please let the Film Society know..

Eat out locally!

Local restaurants and pubs such as Frasers of Egerton and the Rose & Crown are joining the Government Eat Out To Help Out Scheme throughout August (which offers up to £10 off food and non-alcoholic drinks per person on specific dates and times). Please contact either venue for details of when the offer runs and what is included.
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Obituary: Raymond Shrubb

Ruth Shrubb remembers her husband Raymond who died in July



Raymond died on July 5th peacefully at home following 4 months of quick deterioration after 20 years of very happy retirement in the delightful village of Egerton and being involved in all aspects of village life. Planting the garden with many English native trees and many flowering Shrubs, which have now come to maturity. We have enjoyed making and keeping the company of many friends within the village and its organisations. How fortunate we were to have been able to celebrate our Diamond

Wedding on February 20th 2020 at Frasers for luncheon which included Family, our Best Man and 2 Bridesmaids. The family were overwhelmed by the large number of villagers who congregated outside the West door to show their respects with a loud rendering of "Jerusalem" as the coffin was Committed to the Earth. (Due to the very limited numbers allowed in the church and singing was forbidden, the villagers had to remain outside because of the pandemic).

100 Club Winners

Here are the results of recent 100 Club draws:

Here are the results of the May Draw

£100 John Lumley

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£25 Alan Brivio

Here are the results of the June Draw

£100 Martin Wilkinson

£50 Gary Robinson

£25 Harold Hilder

Here are the results of the July Draw

£100 John Lumley

£50 Millie Allen

£25 Alan Brivio

The final Draw of this series will be on Wednesday 19th August – this the 'Consolation Draw' only for people who have not won a prize this year. **For more information on Egerton's 100 Club draw contact Jonathan Elworthy. info@egerton100club.org 756205**



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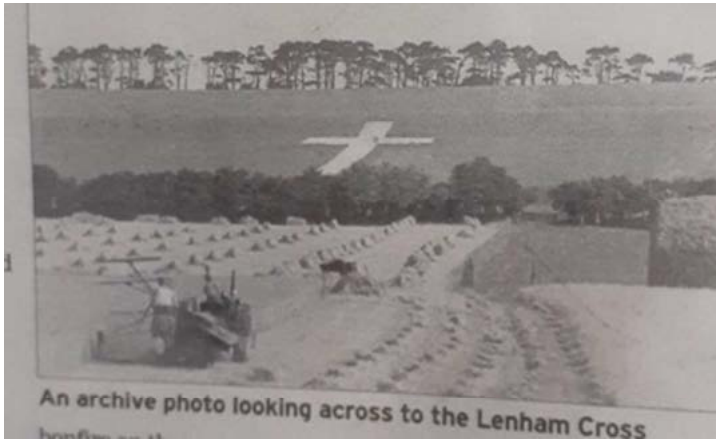
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A Short History of The Lenham Cross



The cross at Lenham has held a special place in the hearts of locals ever since it was first cut into the chalk downs in 1921 as a memorial to the fallen of the Great War. Yet, until recent years, it had never had any official recognition. That changed in December 2017 when Historic England registered the cross as a National Monument and War Memorial thanks to the work of parish Councillor Mike Cockett.

The monument, measuring 61m by 21m, was once supported by a memorial stone surrounded by iron railings at the base, recording the names of the 42 Lenham villagers who died in the First World War.

A second stone, with the names of the 14 killed in the Second World War was added later, but in 1960 both were moved to the north entrance of St. Mary's Church to make it easier for mourners to visit them.

During the Second World War the cross was covered over to prevent it being a marker for enemy aircraft.

In 1963 it underwent a major renovation with 40 tonnes of chalk added.

Mr. Cockett realised the site's lack of official recognition when the village prepared its Neighbourhood Plan in 2014, describing it as "virtually unknown outside of Lenham".

He said, "the cross is always one of the first places we show visitors, so it was a shock to find it was totally unregistered".

He went about sending Historic England pictures of the cross, testimony from villagers and a copy of the book "Lenham and the Great War" by historian Amy Myers to convince the organisation of its importance.

The site is now Grade II listed and Historic England's citation

states: "The memorial is rather unusual when compared with other war memorials as it was carved by hand directly into the chalk of the North Downs as a hill-figure cross and prominent landmark by Freddie Baldock, with help from volunteers".



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Egerton's Victory Walk

Egerton's VE/VJ Day Celebrations may have been curtailed for 2020 but there are still ways in which you can remember the heroic efforts of our predecessors.

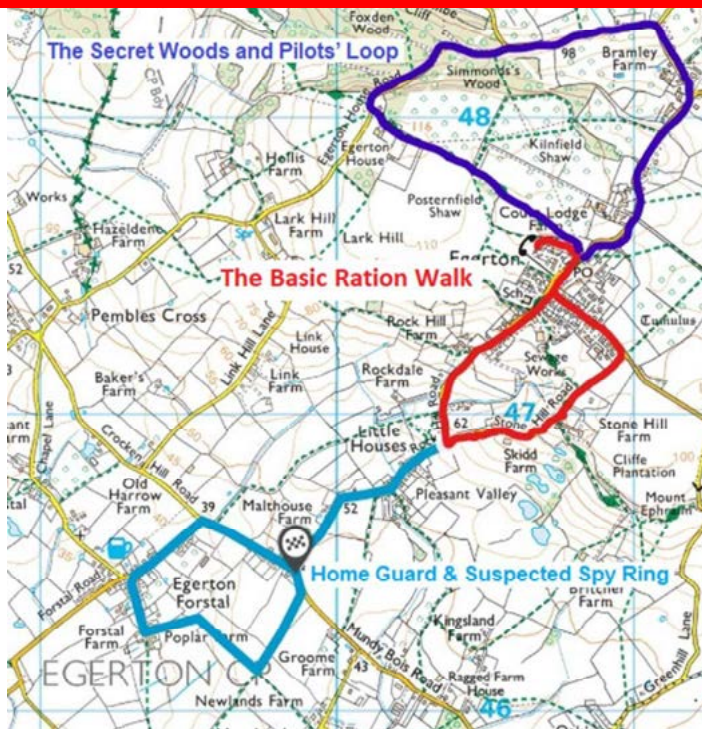
You can take our World War Two Walk or simply read about the events and characters that shaped our village during its darkest days over the next few pages. Or simply fly the flag on August 15th (*the correct way up—see page 19.!*)

Egerton, Strawberries, Jam and Jerusalem!



In 1942, 6 cwt. of preserves (mostly strawberry jam) was made in Rock Hill Hut by members of Egerton W.I. This is the equivalent of 670

pounds. A sample was taken to Buckingham Palace by Sir Harold Campbell. Sir Harold lived at Rock Hill Farm. He used to bring parties down from London to shoot rabbits around the village.



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Egerton World War II Guided Walk

Many of us have found enjoyment in Egerton's beautiful surroundings during lockdown—but what was it like to live here over three quarters of a century ago during the Second World War? Egerton resident Janet Poplett has devised a series of walks to allow you to help you imagine life in the village during those times. The walks can be done as a series—or as just one long route if you have the energy!

The Basic Ration Walk

Distance: 1.5 miles/2.4 kms Time: About 40 minutes.

Terrain: Some steep upward inclines along Stone Hill. All on paved roads other than the path through the churchyard out to the field.

Start: At the main church gate on The Street.

- Go into the churchyard first to see the Commonwealth grave of Jack Payne, Flight Engineer with the RAF. Follow the path round to the left. The village war memorial stands ahead of you naming those men of the village who lost their lives in both wars.
- Take the left-hand grass path just past the memorial. Where the path splits, take the right path and you'll see ahead of you, between the two tall cross memorials, on the right the plain white stone of Jack's grave.
- Continue along this path out of the churchyard behind the back gardens of the adjoining houses, down a short flight of steps into the field. Turn left along the field boundary. You are heading for the pillbox situated in the garden of No.9 Glebelands which, after about 20 metres, can be seen from the path. It is a Model/Type 24. Designed to have views in all directions and be manned by gunners ready to attack invaders, it faces the four points of the compass, with the door facing east. In 1939, the pillbox had a clear view to the south and west along the ridge of the hill. There are two other pillboxes in the village.
- Retrace your steps back through the church and onto The Street. **If you want to do the complete walk, add in the Secret Woods and Pilots' Loop here.**
- Before turning right out of the church gate, look to your left. Wartime plans had been made for a road block at this point. Below Mill House, the white detached cottage almost opposite you, three large holes were drilled into the wall, each capable of holding 40 gallon drums of explosive, which could be detonated from nearby to devastate any group held up by the road block, just about where you are standing now. Best to move on quickly!
- Proceed along The Street. On your left you will pass a row of cottages marked 'W. H. Buckle & Son'. In the 1930s Buckles Cottage was a shop with a cigarette vending machine outside, selling Players Medium Cut for 11p. Next to it was an illuminated sign which had to be removed in the war as it contravened the black-out regulations.
- The village shop on your left occupied the same spot in the war as it does now. As you approach imagine the smell of freshly baked bread wafting out of the shop. Bread was baked in the cellar here up to 1949.
- Continue along this side of the road and you'll see the plaque set into the wall of 1 Stonecroft Cottages in 1995 commemorating the 50th anniversary of VE Day. The plaque was unveiled by Mrs Turner, one of the oldest residents, at the end of a village street party stretching from the pub to the church. It says *Egerton Remembers* - and we have!
- Cross over the top of New Road. As you do, note the drive to The Cottage to your right, which also houses one of the village's pillboxes in its garden. From there, it had a good view down the hill towards Pluckley.
- Carry on down the hill, past the garage. In the war, the village school was situated where Old School Court now sits. There were two air raid shelters there for the 100 children: one in the girls' and one in the boys' playgrounds. Before the shelters were built the children were quickly walked home along The Street or to friends if the air raid siren sounded. The school relocated to its present site in 1971.
- Heading down further, just opposite the bottom entrance to the playing fields you see Rock Hill House on the other side of the road. The Boothe family who lived there would invite their neighbours to join them to sit out a raid in the cupboard under the stairs. Must have been a big cupboard!
- Carry on round the bend in the road, where there used to be a corrugated tin shed in the field just past the driveway to Rockdale Farm. During the summer months of the war you would have been smelling sugar and jam just about now because this was where the WI produced quantities of jam to sell to local shops.
- Continue on to the junction with Stone Hill Road. **If you want to do the complete walk, add in the Home Guard and Suspected Spy Ring here.** Turn left up the hill. This takes you along the top of the ridge with wonderful views of the village. Stop and savour them – you'll need to, as it gets quite steep! Somewhere at one end of this road was a searchlight used to scour the skies for enemy aircraft. Towards the end of Stone Hill you'll see the entrance to New Stonehill Farm on your right. In the field just past the entrance is where we believe a bomb landed. The crater has been filled in -or at least, we can't find it!
- The land around you here would have been used for growing flax which was an important crop in the war as it possesses a valuable quality. It expands in the wet, making it waterproof and rot-resistant. The crop would have been transported to Pivington Mill, just down the road from the village, where it was milled and made into gun covers, parachute harnesses, tarpaulins and webbing for uniforms. Pivington Mill was kept running 24/7 in the war, staffed by 80 workers including many German and Italian POWs in the latter years.





Egerton World War II Guided Walk cont....

The Basic Ration Walk cont....

- Turn left at the end of the road and back into the village. Another bomb fell just beyond the back garden of Four Winds, the first house on your right. That was a near miss for the village.
- Next door to Four Winds is Rose Cottage, where Selby Barton lived from 1930. He was a coffin maker by trade but during the war was one of 12 special constables in the village. They patrolled in pairs nightly and collected sealed instructions each night from Bill Pack's yard. Many people worked hard, holding down a job and doing public service when they got home.
- Carry on back to the Barrow House pub where this part of the walk ends. It was a favourite watering hole of the Canadian and American WWII airmen who were stationed locally. Come back for a drink when it is open again! Then you can see where the airmen signed their names on the chimney breast in the back bar.

The Secret Woods and Pilots' Loop

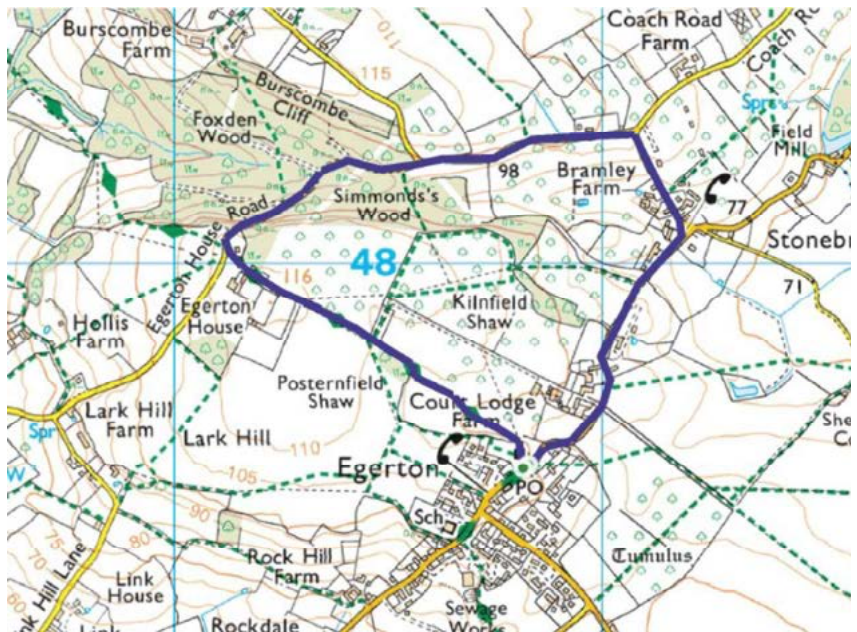
Distance: 1.8 miles/2.9 kms

Time: About 60 minutes.

Terrain: Some steep upwards inclines along Coach Road and Egerton House Road. Unpaved and uneven paths through the orchards.

Start: At the church gate on The Street.

- This additional walk takes us away from The Street towards Stonebridge Green. As you turn away from the church down the hill, you pass Cedar Mount on your right. In the garden is the third of the pillboxes, commanding a view across the approach to the village from Charing.
- Further along on the left is the entrance to Court Lodge, a large farm during the war. In 1940 an incendiary bomb landed here burning down the Dutch barn.
- Follow the road down the hill into Stonebridge Green where you see Brook House on your right behind the wall. This was the home of Sir Robbin Hooper, a highly decorated bomber pilot who joined the RAF Special Squadrons, dropping secret agents behind enemy lines to work with the French resistance. Landing was tricky, usually in open fields guided by hand-held torches. One landing went badly wrong when the field proved too boggy to take off again. Hooper burned the plane and spent nearly a month in France hidden by the Resistance, using his time to send back reports of enemy movements and possible landing sites.
- In front of you, on the opposite side of the green is Stonebridge Green House, which was also the home of a pilot, Major Tomkinson, who flew in the Fleet Air Arm.
- Turn left at the green and follow the road up the hill as it bends round back towards the village. Keep left at the first junction onto Coach Road. A little further on Coach Road then bends right, towards Field Farm which was the site of another bomb to land in the village. You should keep straight on onto Egerton House Road.
- As you proceed, the woods either side of the road close in and it becomes shaded and quiet. You would have needed a pass to walk here in the war. Sentries guarded either end of the road. This is because Simmonds Wood on your left and Foxden Wood on your right were the ideal sites for the large ammunition dump, known as the ordnance dump, probably serving the nearby airfields. During the war, it would not have been so quiet either. All around you, shielded by the tree canopy, would have been soldiers camping out in the woods. They knocked down the old kilns used in the claypit in the woods to make hardcore for the roads they built through the woods, including laying a small gauge railway. They built huts and the whole area was fenced off with barbed wire. Look closely and you might see the kerbstones and drains they fitted into the road around the loading bays. You would certainly have been arrested if caught walking where you are now! This was secret stuff.
- You come out by Egerton House, the imposing white building on your left. Look across to your right towards the woods. Somewhere in the fields below here was the site of one of three reported doodlebug explosions around the village, described as a huge explosion and a thud. Try to imagine how that would shatter the quiet around you now. In the grounds of the new house on your left behind you, the soldiers built a washroom and toilet block. What a view to wash by! In due course, villagers would be invited up to Egerton House occasionally to see a film or show put on by the troops.
- Take the drive on your left with Egerton House on your right and walk on, passing a pair of cottages, Egerton House Cottage and Foxden Lodge on your left. Follow the grassy track. You are now on the Greensand Way which continues straight through the orchards, into the back of the churchyard, where this walk ends.





Egerton World War II Guided Walk cont....

The Home Guard and Suspected Spy Ring

Distance: 2 miles/3.1 kms Time: About 40 minutes.

Terrain: A gradual incline up towards Rock Hill Road on the return leg. Unpaved field paths across the fields from Forge Lane to Mundy Bois Road.

Start: At the junction of Rock Hill Road and Stone Hill Road.

- This additional loop takes us down to the Forstal. Head down the hill from the junction of Rock Hill Road and Stone Hill Road, passing on your left 2 Oak Tree Villas, the childhood home of Ronald Collins, a man of extraordinary luck and courage. He survived a traffic accident as a young boy, which killed his father. As a young man, he enlisted in the army before the war, rising to the rank of Company Sergeant Major. He fought in Singapore where he was captured by the Japanese, but later escaped to survive the war.
- Further along, past Water Villa, you come to The White Cottage on the corner on the other side of the road. This was the home of Mr and Mrs Sivyver during the war. Mr Sivyver, a coal merchant in Headcorn, was a giant of a man. When an army truck lost control on the bend nearby, ending up in the ditch, Mr Sivyver lifted it out by himself! We know that's true because it was witnessed by the local policeman, PC Calloway.
- At the end of the road, turn right, but before you enjoy the downhill walk along Crockenhill, cast an eye to the left. Along this road, across the fields to the right, is Frith Wood where an RAF unit was stationed in the war, followed by an American unit, serving the airfields. There was also an underground ammunition store there.
- Carry on down Crockenhill and take the first left into Forstal Road. After the first row of houses on the left, there is a field. This now contains a pile of old bricks which we believe is all that is left of the wooden shed which was the Egerton Home Guard HQ. The Home Guard (3 Platoon, B Company, 2nd Battalion Charing) worked on secret preparations in case of invasion and were tasked with defending the railway bridge at Maltman's Hill. Armed initially with shotguns but no ammunition, they eventually received rifles and Browning automatics. They must have been relieved when those arrived. Just like *Dads' Army*!



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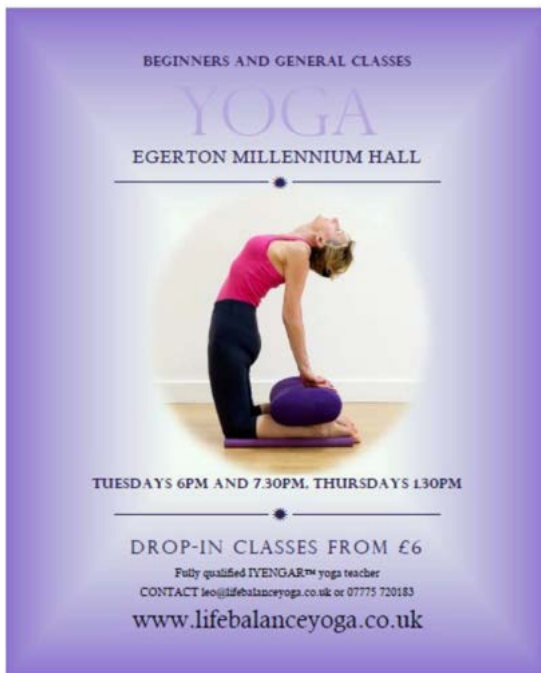


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Egerton World War II Guided Walk cont....

- Continue along to the Queens Arms pub on the right at the junction with Chapel Lane. Recycling was a major part of the civilian war effort and the pub's stables were the collection point for paper, flattened tin cans and bones, all carefully organised by Miss Ethel Hales.
- Before you turn down Forge Lane opposite, the road continues on, becoming Bedlam Lane. It is a long road but if you have time, or a bike, you may want to see the WWII airfield, which was situated along Bedlam Lane. There is a memorial to the Canadian and American flyers who served there. There is a great deal of information about the airfield online. A flypast and service takes place at the airfield memorial every year in September. During the war, dog fights between the Spitfires and German planes regularly took place in the skies above Kent, so in the war years you might very well have seen one over your heads as you were out walking.
- Turn down Forge Lane. Just after the entrance to Fridd Farm, on your right is a small parcel of land known as the Pump Plait, now part of a smallholding, housing the Forstal Parish Pump. In March 1942 the Mid Kent Water Company undertook repairs to the pump and well and ensured purification of the water. This had been designated as the village's emergency water supply in the event that the enemy poisoned the mains water.



- Carry on along Forge Lane where you find the gate to a house called Penare on the left. The land on which this is built used to be part of a bungalow called St Kitts. This was owned by Major and Mrs Davies in 1939. The Major was recalled into the army but the couple were reported as suspected enemy spies. The house was searched for incriminating evidence but it was a false alarm, all because Mrs Davies was of German/Swiss origin. It goes to show how tensions were high even in a close knit village.
- Follow the footpath out of the back of Forge Lane through Poplar Farm, across two sheep fields, which brings you onto Mundy Bois Road. Turn left onto the road and right up Rock Hill Road to retrace your steps back to the junction with Stone Hill Road where this circle of the walk ends.



With the 75th anniversary of the ending of WWII hostilities in the Far East falling on 15th August this year, we hope to see many of our national flags flying – but how many will be flown upside down? The original flag of Great Britain, from the time of James I, was symmetrical. The combination of the crosses of St George and St Andrew gave rise to an easy symmetry which could be flown either way up. However, after the Acts of Union in 1801, uniting Great Britain with Ireland, the flag's design changed to incorporate the diagonal red cross of St Patrick. The result is an asymmetrical combination of the

three crosses, creating a broader white band to the upper left, nearest the flagpole. Rumour has it that flying the flag upside down is a sign of distress – this could perhaps be significant in these trying times! Another quirk of our flag is the dimensions, which are generally oblong, 5 parts wide to 3 parts high. However the union jack (more commonly flown at sea) is an oblong of ratio 2 parts wide to one part high. Hopefully we can enjoy seeing many flags flown on 15th, whichever way they blow.

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Egerton's WW2—airfields, farming and defences

Claire Foinette and Janet MacKay delve into the archives to discover the part Egerton played in WW2

Egerton in the early forties was a thriving community. Being largely self-sufficient, residents would not have needed to travel far to cater for their daily needs. This was just as well, for petrol was rationed (very few families would have owned cars anyway) and the main forms of transport were horse and cart, bicycle or, most commonly, your own two feet.

Nearly every household would have been involved or connected to the farming industry in some way, nearly every form of agriculture being practiced in the parish at that time. The farms provided hops, soft fruit, orchards, a variety of livestock and arable crops. Land girls were brought in to assist on those farms where the workers had been called up to join the forces and many remained long after the war had ended – some still living here with their families today.

Most residents would have been used to growing a small crop of fruit and vegetables but now, where flowers and lawns may once have been, it became essential to provide the maximum amount of produce to keep wartime Britain healthy. Diets were probably the healthiest at that time, compared with later years.



Fire at Court Lodge (above) and a local air raid shelter below

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A walk through the village in the forties could bring you all you needed. The butcher at Church House, Buckles the baker next door and, yes, the candlestick maker – the village stores was a general store and grocer at that time and would definitely have happily provided you with candles for the regular power cuts of the time and paraffin for those homes without electricity. There was also the forge and wheelwrights behind the bakery, the garage where Olivers remains today. Another grocery store (Bottings) and photographer was situated at Johnstone East and down at the Forstal



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there was another general store at Edgeley (this remained in business until 1970) and a garage at the old forge on the corner of Forge Lane. If you needed shoe repairs from the endless walking, Rose Cottage on New Road was the place to go, where coffins were also made. The village policeman was to be found at Hillside Villas on Rock Hill. For recreation, goal running took place in the field just behind the Queens Arms at the Forstal and there were also cricket and football clubs, although the playing fields behind Old School Court were not levelled until after the war. An old WWI army hut, sited next to present games barn provided the community with a place to meet and hold dances, W.I. meetings and other events and the two pubs, The George and the Queens Arms were popular amongst residents and the many incoming army and air-force personnel.

Egerton's WW2—airfields, farming and defences

War had, of course, a huge impact on the village. There were 3 'pillboxes' built for defence in case of invasion. One provided a road block opposite St James's Church; one at the end of what is now Glebeland and another near The George pub. The building of the airfield beside Bedlam Lane brought in first the army, many of whom were billeted in the village at Weeks Farm, Pot- ters Forstal Farm and many other households in the village. They were followed by the Canadian and the American Airforce who quickly became part of village life and whose signatures can still be seen above the inglenook at what is now The Barrow House (then The George pub). War left behind too, so many personal stories and artefacts, some of which are told in this issue.

The following people having served in World War 2 were presented with initialed leather wallets by the people of Egerton – the money £361 – 18s having been raised by house to house collections, dances and raffles:-

| | | |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| L. Ailwood | R. Gillespie | J. Pack |
| G. Bain | F. Gore | P. Palmer |
| J. Bolton | F. Hogbin | J. Payne |
| A. Booth | R. Homewood | A. Pearson |
| A. Burbridge | E. Hopkins | G. Pearson |
| G. Buss | G. Hopkins | J. Pope |
| S. Buss | M. Hoyle | A. Rickson |
| P. Carr | C. Ifield | F. Roberts |
| J. Chantler | J. Ifield | W. Rose |
| S. Chittenden | F. James | F. Ross Barker |
| A. Clifton | B. Keyes | R. Shepherd |
| R. Collins | N. Kirby | E. Smith |
| Rob Collins | W. Livingstone | F. Smith |
| C. Constable | H. Luckraft | I. Smith |
| C. Coppins | R. Luckraft | L. Smith |
| A. Costa | A. Maybourne | C. Turk |
| P. Cowdy | H. Missing | F. Turk |
| J. W. Davies | B. Oliver | G. Turner |
| J. Durey | V. Oliver | A. Waddington |
| N. Durey | E. Pack | L. Wall |
| P. Giles | G. Pack | C. Wells |
| J. Gillespie | J. Pack | J. Wildman |

Women

| | | |
|------------|-------------|----------|
| K. Collins | L. Harl | G. Rye |
| V. Collins | B. Homewood | V. Rye |
| C. Craig | J. Homewood | D. Weeks |
| I. Gore | A. Pack | |



The aftermath of an Incendiary bomb at Rock Dale and some of Egerton's special constables below

Gwen Cramer
One of my childhood memories of the war was the very loud gunfire coming from the Egerton aerodrome, hearing the Doodlebugs going over at night while lying in bed, and one evening a terrific bang which shook the whole house when a large part of a doodlebug fell down into Mr Cowdy's orchard next door.



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Explosives by the roadside... the enemy in the hopfield....

Villagers' recalled their experiences of WW2 in a History of Egerton 1900—2000

Les Watts

As a small village Egerton had its share of activity during World War Two. In the very early days we saw the forming of the ARP and Fire Watchers. One day a large convoy of trucks, loaded with soldiers, appeared in the village, and after a long wait they were duly moved into Foxden and Simmons Woods. The soldiers erected huts and put up barbed wire around the woods, and drains and kerbstones along each side of the road (they are still there today) and built loading bays into the banks. They even installed a small gauge railway for carting heavy loads to and from the bays. Holes were dug and large water tanks installed as fire points. On completion the whole area was turned into a large ammunition dump with sentries posted at each end. In the outer grounds of Egerton House a large hut was built, also a washroom and a toilet block. After a while, when things settled down, residents and local children were often invited to concerts or a film show put on by the troops. A rather frightening experience occurred to two young local girls, aged seven and nine, who were working with their mother in their uncle's hop garden. Mother sent the girls home to grandad's farm next door for a can of water for the afternoon's brew up. On leaving the hop garden they climbed over a stile in the next field and found themselves face to face with a German airman who had parachuted down. He spoke to them, but not understanding, they took to their heels and ran to find grandad, Bill Hopkins, who notified the police and the military later picked the German up.

John Fraser

In the 1940 as the threat of invasion increased, Kent made ready to resist. Substantial defences were constructed in the village. Three pill boxes were built to cover the approaches from Iden Lane and Court Lodge, Egerton House and from the south towards Stone Hill. They can still be seen in the gardens of The Cottage, 9 The Glebe and Cedar Mount. Road blocks were prepared, one by the Church and the other opposite the field where the school stands. These road blocks were built in conjunction with two fougasses. These fougasses were, in each case, three large holes, each lined with forty gallon drums packed with explosives and metal missiles. They could be detonated from somewhere nearby, such as the pill boxes to create carnage amongst any group held up in a road block. One of these fearsome devices was built into the wall opposite the junction of New Road and the other opposite the Church wall below Mill House.

Joe Pack

I was in Bomber Command and had been on many sorties before a trip over the Ruhr Valley, no-one saw the night fighter which shot us down. I managed to escape by parachute and landed west of Aachen, I ditched my 'chute and started running after taking a bead on the North Star. After a day and night travelling I was discovered by two Dutch workers on the German/Dutch border. They clothed me in civilian clothes and I was passed from one patriot to another by foot, bicycle and train. After several days I arrived in Maastricht which was full of German military, a young man took me by tram to Liege, I was moved to Louvain, then Brussels, back to Louvain and eventually on to Paris on a crowded train where a girl persuaded the Germans that me and 3 others were deaf mute. In Paris I was searched by the Gestapo. I spent three weeks hiding in the Paris outskirts with a French couple who were also sheltering two Scottish soldiers. I eventually escaped France via the 'Comete line' a well laid route organised by Andree de Jongh and her father and sister. My final route home being via Biarritz, St Jean de Luz, San Sebastien, Madrid and Gibraltar. I was soon flying for the RAF in Gibraltar and was eventually found passage back to Londonderry, then on to Larne then Stranrair before getting the train back to London and on to Charing where I managed to cadge a lift back with Mr Oliver. I returned home on the day after my mother had received the second telegram 'Missing believed killed in active service'.



Alan Palmer

The first local farmers knew that an airstrip was to be constructed in Egerton was the arrival of important letters from the government informing owners that part of their land and some buildings may be requisitioned. The following properties were affected: - Kingsden Farm - Palmer Family Godwin House land - 100 acres Weeks Farm - including the house, then owned by Major Noble, became Air Force HQ Lily Villa - used to house military personnel Clarke Hill Farm - (now called Amherst Court) owned by Tom Weeks Box Farm owned by Charlie Roberts Potters Forstal Farm - owned by Tilden Hales Barhams Mill Farm - owned by Reg Harding Wallett Court owned by Edward Chantler The Palmer family were given the option of leaving their farm but decided to stay. All requisitioned land was to be used as an advance landing area. The airfield was called Headcorn airfield 412 aerodrome whilst confusingly the one at Headcorn was called Lashenden, airfield 127. The two squadrons based at Headcorn and Lashenden flew sorties carrying small bombs to drop over France; they would fly up to three missions a day, weather permitting. Many other planes had to land here due to fuel shortage, including 13 Flying Fortresses. On 12th April 1944 the American 362 Fighter Group consisting of Squadrons 377, 78 & 379 flew in with 87 Thunderbolt fighters. 2,000 personnel accompanied them, all living under canvas. The Americans arrived very well organised, but one thing they had not planned was where to empty the latrines. Murray Mitchel at Burnt House Farm had mostly poultry and some market garden produce; tomatoes and cucumbers grown on ridges with gullies between each row. It was in these gullies that the latrines were emptied, and in the same gullies that local women stood to cut the cucumbers!

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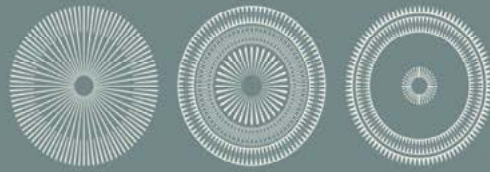
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Ruth Shrubb

I was an evacuee from London, along with my mother and 9 month old sister. To this day, I have no idea why I had not been living with my parents in Fulham, close to the River Thames, but in a children's home, run by nuns. I can remember being there and not being allowed to play with the large doll's house and having to be pushed in the push chair (presumably to church), when I wanted to walk! The day war broke out, at night time, I can remember the sound of sirens and being very scared. My room-mate (also very young) and I were comforted by a nun and taken into their bedroom. At a later time, my father came to take us home to a new place of residence, a country village – Clandon in Surrey, near to Guildford. My father was still living in London, he worked at Harrods. We sat together on the train from Waterloo to Clandon and I can remember being told that all the station signs had been removed for safety so that any invading personnel would not know where they were! I can remember the house in Clandon, the W.C. was outside, with a wooden seat over a hole in the ground! There were chickens running around in the orchard which got drunk from eating the fallen apples. Eventually, my father joined us, having left the house (40, Elerby Street) and Harrods because he didn't think the war would be over by Christmas and he didn't like being on his own. He became the driver of the local corner shop, Gochers, because all the young men had gone to war. My father was too old to be called up – he had served in the First World War. Eventually we lived all together in a small house in Guildford, where we grew up and went to school. My father became a milkman for the local dairy, Lympson & Smees. I can remember helping him on a Saturday. I went to the local Grammar School for Girls for 7 years and eventually worked in the local hospital, St Luke's, as a laboratory technician in the pathology department.

Local Airfields 1943-44

Both the airfield at Bedlam Lane, Egerton and the current Headcorn Airfield played an important part in the D-Day landings in early June, 1944. Headcorn was then known as Lashenden (airfield number 127) and comprised two runways, constructed in 1942-43 and then manned by 403, 416 and 421 squadrons of the Royal Canadian Airforce, who were housed in a hastily erected canvas air base. These squadrons, together with those at the Bedlam Lane airfield, experienced heavy losses during the many raids in 1943, after which those based at Lashenden moved to the airfield at Bedlam Lane. Further construction work was then carried out at Lashenden, when a permanent taxiway was built. In April 1944 the American Air Force Tactical Air Command arrived at Lashenden and the airfield was renamed as Station 410, Maidstone. There is a memorial on Bedlam Lane to the many airmen from the Royal Canadian Airforce and the United States Airforce who gave their lives defending this country during 1943 and 1944



Jean Gravett

Our area of Kent soon became known as 'bomb alley'. Even the dog got to know the drone of enemy aircraft and slunk upstairs and under the bed for safety. We were all issued with gas masks which like the identity cards had to be carried at all times. At Egerton School it was considered unsafe to leave more than 100 children in one place once the air raid siren had sounded so we were divided into two groups – one group went down the hill as far as Little Houses with a dropoff of children at each house and likewise up the hill. The end of the war was a joyous time. I remember as a family we all visited Bert Millgate's old mill where cider flowed and I wonder how we managed to get home.....

SURPRISING 100-CALORIE SNACKS

With many looking to reduce their waistlines after months on lockdown these surprising 100-calorie snacks can be enjoyed without derailing your diet. Most of these low-calorie bites require only three ingredients and take less than 5 minutes to prepare.

Cheese and Tomato Toastie – 93kcal: Chop the tomato and spring onion, sprinkle them over a slice of crispbread, cover with grated cheese and place under a pre-heated grill for a couple of minutes.

1 wholegrain crispbread: 39 kcal, 15g grated low fat mature cheese: 47 kcal 40g tomato: 7 kcal, an optional sprinkling of chopped spring onions

'3-Fruit' Fruit Salad – 102kcal: 50g seedless black grapes, cut in half: 30kcal, 50g diced apple: 26kcal, 100g chopped tinned pineapple in juice: 46kcal

Cheese and Pickle Canapés – 100kcal: Use a potato peeler to get melt-in-your-mouth, wafer-thin cheese slices, and top with gherkin slices and pickle.

3 water biscuits: 42kcal, 15g 30%-less-fat mature cheddar: 46kcal, 30g gherkin: 4kcal, 6g (1tsp) pickle: 8kcal

Smoked Salmon and Cream Cheese Parcels – 109kcal: Place 4 strips of salmon on an even surface and spread 5g of soft cheese mixed with some dill at one end of each strip. Starting from the cheese end, gently fold each strip into rolls.

48g smoked salmon, cut into 4 even strips: 68kcal, 20g reduced-fat soft cheese (5g per parcel): 39kcal, a squeeze of lemon juice: 2kcal, optional sprinkling of fresh dill (calories nominal)

Apple and Peanut Butter – 96kcal : Fresh apple slices and peanut butter are the perfect combination to keep you going until your next main meal.

50g sliced apple: 26kcal, 12g (1tsp) peanut butter: 70kcal, optional sprinkling of cinnamon (calories nominal)

Baked Beans on Toast – 99kcal: a 22g slice of toasted wholegrain or wholemeal bread: 48kcal, 60g baked beans: 51kcal, optional sprinkling of chives (calories nominal)



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News from ABC

A 20mph speed limit could be imposed on part of Hythe Road, from the Mace Lane roundabout and the railway bridge by the Norton Knatch-



bull School. This comes as KCC secured £8M from the Department of Transport to make roads safer for pedestrians and cyclists. The funds have not been secured yet but the project has been included in ABC's 10-year "Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan".

FLANDERS ROUNDABOUT

The junction connecting the A2070 Bad Munsterifel Road and Avenue Jacques Fauchaux has been renamed as Flanders Roundabout as part of a redesign to improve safety and recognise Ashford's links with the First World War. Eight silhouettes of soldiers are being placed on the junction, alongside nine European Quercus trees which have already been planted. The town's floral tank will be installed in the middle of the roundabout which is being covered in turf and surrounded by a wildflower meadow containing poppies.

Andrew Hopkins Hedge Cutting



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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

July Minutes

Footpaths: There are 8 outstanding footpath issues.

Highways: There are 6 outstanding highways issues and 1 new one. Also, there is a large pothole on New Road between Stone Hill and Greenhill Lane which will also be reported.

Older People's Accommodation: A chartered surveyor has been appointed to undertake a valuation and other work. A Letter of Intent has been agreed between EPC and Gary Reeve-Wing.

Extension to Games Barn: A new bookings and invoicing volunteer is being sought.

all their hard work over the years.

VE75 Day Celebrations: This event has had to be cancelled. Attempts are being made by the VE Day committee to arrange something for the VEJ Day on 15th and 16th August.

Red Telephone Box, Stonebridge Green: New shelves have been installed in the telephone box for the book exchange. Lois offered to sort out the books as there were too many in there.

Anti-Slip Plates: It was felt that more plates are required for the steps from cricket ground up to upper rec. The Clerk will look into this.

5000 Houses Proposal at Lenham

Heath: John gave a comprehensive update on what is happening with this proposal.

Speed Humps and Kerbs: Work on painting white lines on the speed humps and kerbs leading to the car part at the hall has been completed.

Mowing: A meeting will be held with Aspire re the mowing programme this year.

New Notice Board: The new notice board has been erected onto the wall of the computer centre.

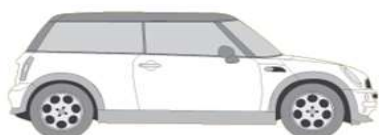
Neighbourhood Plan: A comprehensive report was given by Jane, Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee.

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Sale of Shop: Richard gave an update on the sale of the shop. There is still hope a buyer will complete the purchase.

Post Office: Arrangements have been made for a pop-up post office to be held in the computer centre every Tuesday morning from 10am to 12pm and a Friday afternoon from 2pm to 4pm.

Emergency Plan – Response to the Coronavirus: An update was given on the excellent response from 22 volunteers who are helping a good number of people with shopping, collecting prescriptions, befriending and other tasks as required.

Barrow House: It was agreed to reapply to have the Barrow House listed as an asset of community value.

Revised Master Plan:
KEY:
2 – Proposed New Railway Station, 3 – Public Spaces, 5 – Medium Density Housing, 6 – Rose Lane Industrial Site, 8 – Park.

Lenham Heath—planning battle goes on



Campaign organisers Save Our Heath Lands have an update on their campaign against plans to build a “Garden City” at Lenham Heath—close to the boundary with Egerton

Maidstone Borough Council has revealed its revised masterplan for the proposed Heathlands Garden Community in July, which is beginning to look more like a ‘budget’ version of a garden community, according to local campaign group Save our Heath Lands. *Cont on page 27*

VACANCY Booking Clerk for Egerton Games Barn

Egerton Parish Council has a vacancy for a booking clerk for the Games Barn. Main duties include:

- Maintaining a diary of all regular and spot hire bookings
- Completing monthly invoices covering all bookings and handling cash payments for casual bookings
- Issuing registration forms for all new bookings and maintaining the register of all clients
- To be on call to answer telephone, email and verbal enquires and to answer any complaint that may arise from use of the Games Barn
- Issuing keys for all none regular bookings
- Opening and closing the Games Barn for any National/Council elections
- Liaising with the cleaning services to ensure the building is kept clean
- Sorting any supplies such as soap, toilet paper etc
- Plus any other duties that may arise such as reading the Electricity meter and so on.

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Lenham Heath—planning battle goes on cont...

So, what is different in the second masterplan? According to SOHL:

- The scheme now includes 4,000 houses due to the withdrawal of three large landowners – 20% fewer than originally proposed
- Lenham train station would be relocated to a new halt built at Lenham Heath, which will impact all residents living in the village.
- The motorway junction has been dropped, and instead main access will be via two new road links off the A20. SOHL estimates



that this scheme would generate a 700% increase in traffic through Lenham and Harrietsham

- Removal of the secondary school and no provision for GP services
- The scheme is now sited more to the west which will be just under half a mile from the edge of Lenham village .

You can download the masterplan on SOHL's website at

www.saveourheathlands.co.uk

At the July Policy & Resources Committee meeting, councillors voted to continue with its Heathlands Garden Community proposal, although this was a close call with nine councillors voting for and six against. More councillors are beginning to express concerns about aspects of the project and the lack of transparency, says SOHL says its lobbying and campaigning is making an impact. The scheme could be thrown out before the Local Plan Review spatial strategy is approved by the Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Committee, prior to the start of the first public consultation on 16 October, it says.

So, the fight goes on! The SOHL Committee has been reviewing the masterplan in detail and will be seeking expert advice to build a strong case to prove that the Council's proposed garden community is fundamentally

wrong.

Look out for more information about the public consultation on its website and social media. This is your chance to make your voice heard. Keep up to date with SOHL news by signing up to our e-newsletter at www.saveourheathlands.co.uk

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Egerton Parish Council is totally opposed to Maidstone Borough Council's Garden City proposal at Lenham Heath. Chairman Richard King said : "This is not a good idea at all. We do not wish to see this huge development on our boundary because it will have a massive impact on us all."

The Garden in August , September , October

Tips for the amateur gardener by Kathy Hooke

August is a wonderful month in the garden; the grass grows less, there is generally less to do except deadhead, water, weed and harvest and the days are hopefully long and warm. There are some jobs you can get on with for example hedge cutting. The birds should have finished nesting by now and it is a perfect time to trim all your evergreen hedges. This can really help crisp up a garden at a time when everything else tends to be getting a bit less structured. Always double check for nesting birds before you cut any hedges. While deciduous hedges may also need a good prune, it is best, where you can, to leave these until later in the winter to allow wildlife to benefit from the hips and berries they need to prepare for cold weather. Chop now and there is nothing left for them! Where you can, it is preferable to leave hedges to get bigger and wider and prune every other year to provide better wildlife habitats. A large loose hedge is much more useful to birds and animals than a narrow, tightly clipped affair. Some roses may also need to be pruned now. Roses that flower just once in the summer, whether they are shrub or larger rambling roses, need to be pruned as soon as they finish flowering if you want to restrict their size. Leave it later and you run the risk of chopping off next year's flowers. It is not essential to prune as they will survive quite happily without pruning, just get bigger. If you do prune, ideally cut out some of the old growth and leave plenty of new stems to help the plant rejuvenate itself.

Climbing roses and shrub roses that repeat flower on the current season's growth can be left until February. However, in windy conditions it is often a good idea to chop them back by a third in autumn to protect them from strong winter winds that can loosen roots and break off the long branches of some climbers. If your roses have suffered from blackspot or mildew it is recommended to pick up the dead, infected leaves from under the plants. Don't add them to your compost heap though as the diseases can over winter on the leaves.

August is the time to prune wisteria by removing all the whippy side shoots from the main branch framework to about 5 leaves from the main stem. It is also the time to mow wild flower meadows.

The key to getting more flowers is to reduce the vigour of the grass by never fertilising, only cutting once a year and only after all the flowers have set seed and by removing all mowings. It is possible to weaken the grass further by sowing yellow rattle seed in September into areas you have scalped, but make sure your yellow rattle seed is really fresh or it won't germinate well.

September and October tend to be much busier months in the garden. As the heat subsides and the rain softens the soil, it is the ideal time to plant new container grown plants, move existing plants and divide perennials. With the combination of both warmth and moisture roots establish quickly and the plants will have a head start on those you plant next spring. They will also cope better with any long dry spells we might get next summer.

When buying new plants choose good, healthy ones, not those that have lingered in the garden centre all summer and it is definitely worth taking time to prepare their planting space well if you want to give their best. Make sure you stake new trees or large shrubs well and also tie in new climbers to avoid them getting damaged by the winds we inevitably get at this time of year. If you have plants that you have decided weren't in the right place; maybe they didn't like the conditions in that particular spot or you thought they didn't look right, then the warm,



damp conditions of early autumn are the ideal time to move them. Dig them up with as much root as possible and plant them in a new spot where they will work better. Autumn is also the best time to divide herbaceous perennials. Ideally this does need to be done every 3-4 years to keep them flowering well so if they have lost their vigour, outgrown their allotted space or you just want to make new plants from your existing stock then now is the time to do it. Dig them up, cut off their top growth and split the root system making sure each new clump has plenty of healthy, strong roots. Discard the old woody central section and plant up your lovely new small plants, watering them in well. A great way of getting plants for free!

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The Garden in August , September , October cont...

Once the ground is moist it is much easier to weed – the roots come out more cleanly rather than just breaking off. Tackling them now means there will be less to compete with your plants in the spring. It also gives the opportunity to decide what you want to do with your self-seeded annuals such as ox eye daisies, poppies, love in the mist and foxgloves. You might want to remove them

totally so they don't swamp small plants or just thin them to leave enough for lots of early summer colour but not overwhelm nearby permanent planting. If you transplant them to new places water them in well and keep an eye on them as small plants can dry out quickly in warm or windy weather. September is a good time to sow new annuals for next year and it is one less job to do next spring. The seeds will germinate and make good small plants by the time winter arrives and



will flower earlier next year than those you sow next spring. Examples to try are annual poppies, love in the mist, cornflowers, larkspur, Salvia viridis, and Cerinthe. When the ground is soft enough take the opportunity to get daffodil, narcissus, crocus and muscari bulbs planted. They start to produce roots quite early in autumn and benefit from an early planting. Tulips on the other hand, are better planted later in autumn when the cold weather has arrived as it inhibits the viral and fungal diseases that live in the soil and can infect the bulbs. If you want to improve your lawn early autumn is a good time to start. Aerating the roots and scarifying to remove thatch and moss will get more water and air to the roots and help the lawn grow better. New turf and grass seed will also establish while it is warm and wet.

Grass stops growing once the night temperature drops below 5 degrees so laying turf and sowing seed needs to be done while the nights are warmer.

Though October is often wetter and windier and the days shorter it is still ideal gardening weather. The leaves need to be collected and added to compost heaps or stored for leaf

mould and rotting vegetation needs to be removed from ponds to keep them healthy. Crops that have finished in the vegetable garden need to be cleared away to the compost heap to avoid providing a home for overwintering pests and diseases such as slugs. Now is the time to clear your garden of as many weeds as possible and mulch your soil with a lovely layer of organic matter – well rotted homemade compost, mushroom compost or animal manure (as long

as it is weed free). This will feed your soil. If it is well rotted the nutrients will not leach away in the rain and through winter the frosts will break up large clumps and the worms will start to incorporate the matter into your soil – so no need to dig it in. By spring it will be easy to plant into and there should be no large clumps for slugs to hide under! Mulching helps soil retain its moisture, add nourishment, open up its structure and reduce erosion. It feeds all the micro-organisms that bring life into your soil and helps unlock your soil's innate fertility.

The end of September into October is the time to pick all your unripe tomatoes – maybe pop them into a paper bag with a banana so they will continue to ripen or maybe make chutney... Once plants are cleared from the greenhouse it is a good idea to give it a good clean and disinfect it. This will let in more light and prevent pests and diseases from overwintering.



The frosts usually arrive by October and tender plants need to be given protection if you want to keep them for another year. Pelargoniums, tender fuchsias, lemons, olives and even bay trees in pots need help to survive the cold and wet. Pop them into a greenhouse, conservatory or porch if you can. By the end of October there is much less colour in the garden and many of us retreat inside away from the cold and wet. Before you do it is a good idea to check that your fences and other garden structures like trellis, pergolas, arches etc are secure and to trim overhanging branches from over paths so you can pass easily.



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MVR Vehicle Repairs 8

P H Oliver & Sons 25

Phipps Motors 11

Chimney Sweep

Kilbys 25

Chiropody & Foot Care

Afsaneh Smith 7

Podplus 30

Chiropractor

Dr Philip Petts 14

Coach & Car Hire

AJ & NM Carr Ltd 24

Wealden Wheels 6

Coal Merchants

Fordhams Coal 5

Computing (See I.T.)

Decorators & Painters

Home Decorating Services 28

R J Moss Ltd 30

S I Parr 3

KP Decorating 8

Drainage

R J Hopkins 7

Education

Egerton C of E School 15

Egerton Pre School 7

Mrs Jane Cooper - Piano 3

Engineering

JD Mills Engineering 14

Estate Agents

Hobbs Parker 18

Fencing

R James & Sons Fencing 7

Financial Planning

Scarlett Financial Services 21

Wilkinson Wealth Management 2

Gardening & Garden Supplies

Andrew Hopkins (Hedge Cutting) 24

Mower Plant Services 11

Ray Jiles (Tree Surgeon) 27

Glaziers

Glass 'n' Glaze 24

Health & Fitness

Life Balance Yoga 19

Yvonne Fernando 6

Heating & Fuel

Fordhams Coal 5

Insurance

Cascade Insurance 10

Wealden Insurance 11

Ironworks

CT Contract Ltd 26

I.T.

Captivewebs 22

Chrysalis Computer Solutions 5

Egerton Computer Centre 4

Newspaper Delivery

Jackie's News 13

Osteopath

Angelina Lumley 13

Pest Control

Kilbys 25

Plant Hire

R J Hopkins 7

Plumbing

Rich Gordon 3

WGJ Plumbing 28

Printers

Captivewebs 22

Pubs

Rose & Crown 32

The Barrow House 23

Shops

Pluckley Farm Shop 14

Weald Smokery 12

Solicitors

Kingsfords 9

Thorneloe & Co 27

Sports Pavilion Room Hire

Egerton Sports Pavilion 11

Window Cleaner

Luke Epps 12

Singing Coach

Sheila Daniels 29

Useful Village Contacts List

Council

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------|
| Member of Parliament | Damian Green | 01233 820911 |
| County Councillor | Charlie Simkins | 01233 756705 |
| Borough Councillor | Ken Mulholland | 07568 063309 |
| Parish Councillors: | Richard King, Peter Rawlinson, Claire Foinette, Tim Oliver, Pat Parr, Sarah Elworthy | |
| Parish Clerk | Jeff Hopkins, John Lawton, Lois Tilden | |
| Footpaths Representative | Heather James | 01233 756501 |
| Tree Warden | Pat Parr | 01233 756601 |
| | Graham Howland | 07875523699 |

Church

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Calehill Benefice Rector | Vacant | |
| Calehill Benefice Curate | Vacant | |
| Egerton Free Church | Revd. Ambrose Oliver | 01233 756459 |
| Egerton Churchwarden | John Lumley | 01233 756249 |
| PCC Secretary St James' | Jan Burgess | 01233 756147 |
| Flowers St James' | Priscilla Harper | 01233 756437 |
| Bellringers St James' | Mike Yarrow | 01233 756387 |
| Friends of St James' | Dick Crabb | 01233 756517 |
| Kent God's Acre Project | Sarah Widd | 01233 756460 |

Schools & Playgroups

| | | |
|------------------------|---|--------------|
| Egerton Primary School | Julia Walker | 01233 756274 |
| Egerton Pre-School | Beth Foxford (Chair) egertonpreschoolchair@outlook.com | 07391 181248 |

Clubs & Organisations

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Air Training Corps (Ashford Squadron) | | 01233 637035 |
| Bethersden Cub Scouts | Mary Ford | 01233 820989 |
| Egerton Film Society | Richard King | 01233 756592 |
| Egerton Friends | Elaine Graham | 01233 756137 |
| Egerton Housing Association | Sue Palmer | 01233 756686 |
| Egerton Computer Centre | Carol Hulm | 07990 574214 |
| Egerton Players | Yvonne Smith | secretary@egertonplayers.co.uk |
| Egerton Over Sixties Club | Jacqui Jeffreys | 0746 9230496 |
| Egerton Village Hall Bookings | Mary Phebe | 07725 743889 |
| Egerton Women's Institute | Jackie Parry | 01233 713801 |
| Headcorn Scouts Group | Ann Carroll | 01622 890061 |
| Weald of Kent Preservation Society | Gale King | 01233 756592 |
| The Arts Society Egerton | Christine Lewis (cmwillis75@gmail.com) | 01233 756377 |
| The Village Theatre Club | Elaine Graham (elainedgraham@btinternet.com) | 01233 756137 |

Sport

| | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------|
| Egerton Games Barn Bookings | Vacancy | |
| Egerton Sports Pavilion Bookings | Bill Smyth | 01233 756556 |
| Egerton Cricket Club | Paul Hope | 07885 509751 |
| Egerton & Pluckley Junior Football Club | John Harrison | 01233 756693 |
| Egerton Running Club | Sarah Elworthy | 01233 756205 |
| Egerton Short Mat Bowls | Mike Yarrow | 01233 756387 |
| Egerton Walking Group | Phil and Shirley Missing | 01233 756345 |

Emergencies, Care & Services

| | | |
|---|--|---------------|
| Ashford Borough Council (emergency out-of-hours 629911) | | 01233 331111 |
| Ashford Citizen's Advice Bureau | www.ashfordadvice.org | 01233 626185 |
| Doctors' Surgeries | www.charingpractice.co.uk | 01233 714490 |
| Charing | www.headcornsurgery.nhs.uk | 01622 890294 |
| Headcorn | www.lenvalleypractice.co.uk | 01622 858341 |
| Lenham | Colin Leek | 01233 330340 |
| Dog Warden | All Companies | 105 |
| Electricity | Kent Waste Watch | 0845 345 0210 |
| Flytipping | British Gas | 0800 111 999 |
| Gas Leaks | www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel | 0300 041 8181 |
| Highway Services | William Harvey | 01233 633331 |
| Hospital | Lois Tilden | 01233 756221 |
| Neighbourhood Watch | www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk | 111 |
| NHS Direct | | 101 |
| Police Non-Emergency | Karin Andrews | |
| PCSO | Leak Line | 0800 614 366 |
| South East Water (supply) (emergency 0845 603 2603) | Blockages, Pumping Station Failure | 0845 278 0845 |
| Southern Water (sewerage) | | |

WHAT'S ON AT THE ROSE & CROWN

01233 840048

BANK HOLIDAY BBQ
SUNDAY 30TH AUGUST
BE ENTERTAINED
BY THE SIDEBOARD MEN & GUESTS
FROM 2PM

WE HAVE JOINED THE
GOVERNMENT SCHEME ON
WEDNESDAY'S
THROUGHOUT AUGUST
UP TO £10PP OFF OF FOOD AND NON
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS
T&C'S APPLY, BOOKING REQUIRED

Eat Out
— TO —
HELP OUT

MUSIC IN THE
GARDEN FROM 2PM
SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST
MAX & SHANNON DUO



THE ROSE & CROWN, MUNDY BOIS ROAD, PLUCKLEY, KENT TN27 0ST
INFO@THEROSEANDCROWNPLUCKLEY.CO.UK