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Temple Ewell Newsletter



December 2012

Temple Ewell Organisations

Parish Council Chairman	Mr C Smithen	332139
Clerk to the Parish Council	Mrs J Coulson-Wright	820273
District Councillor	Geoffrey Lymer 07960	490929
Police Community Support Officer	Gretel Stevens 07772	226209
T E School Executive Head Teacher	Mrs Jo Hygate	822665
Friends of Temple Ewell School	Mrs P Mousley	825256
Sunday Club	Mrs J Miles	824280
Friday Club	Mrs J Fowler	822792
Art Workshop	Antionette Tourret	826292
DDWF	Mrs J Fowler	822792
Age Concern	Mrs K Green	207268
Brownies	Mrs A Newington	827138
Community Coffee Mornings	Mrs J Miles	824280
WI	Jan Luckhurst	331051
Produce Association	Mrs B Jaconelli	242466
Temple Ewell Players	Mr M Brodie	824400
Men's Club	Mr A Ladbroke	824948
Village Hall Bookings/Enquiries	Mr P Austen	820615
Youth Club	Marilyn Holness	448140
Tiddlers	Amanda Lomas 07506	811851

St. Peter and St. Paul Temple Ewell

Rev Fr Paul Christian The Rectory Green Lane Temple Ewell 822865
Church Wardens - Mr P Austen 820615 Mrs E Waller 824709
PCC Secretary - Mrs C Roberts 822850
PCC Treasurer - Mr D Waller 824709
Choir Master - R Christian 826320

Baptist Church

Rev Ewart Graham on 375823 or Pat Clipsham on 827341

Temple Ewell Newsletter Editorial Committee

Chair / Editor / Web	Jeanette Potts	826386
Vice Chair	Jenny Olpin	825011
Secretary	Jacqui Axford	330073
Treasurer / Advertising	Linda Ognibeni	824044
Distribution	Jenny Miles	824280
Members	Cindy Tuson, Neinke Thomas, Mike Brodie, Kathryn Prescott, Rachel White	

Hello All

I'm back in the saddle as Editor, at least for a while, and I must say I'm really enjoying it. I know you'll want to join me in thanking Kathryn for all the time she gave to the Newsletter, while also increasing her family. It was tough for her to combine the two and she is now having a well-earned break from the editing. We wish her and her family well.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

There is no January Newsletter so we'll be back in February 2013 and in the meantime we're working on plans for a Cheese Tasting Evening for Friday 1st March (put it in your diaries now - tickets available after Christmas).

Jeanette

Email: tenews@uwclub.net

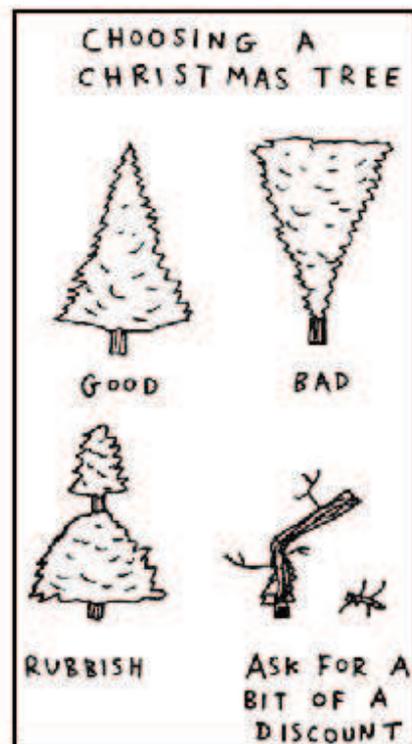
Tel: 01304 826386

Address: Edenvale 1B Byllan Rd River CT17 0QL

We welcome all contributions to the content of the Newsletter, but please remember that the deadline date is 8pm on the 15th of the month

***NOTE:* You should be aware that articles are also published on the website tenews.co.uk - please inform us if you want any part of your article withheld from that particular medium**

A copy of every Newsletter is posted on the website, including the village diary. Make sure you log on to www.tenews.co.uk



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Temple Ewell Newsletter



Village Diary

December 2012

- Sun 2** **Christmas Lights** switch on at Players Corner 6.30pm
Free drink and mince pie! Lights switched on by Panto 'Celebrity'
- Wed 5** **Christmas Door Wreath Workshop** ring Wendy on 07799
338678 or Jenny on 824280 for details 10.30am or 7pm in the
Village Hall
- Thurs 6** **Community Coffee Morning** at the Village Hall 10am
- Thurs 13** **W.I. Meeting** in the Village Hall 7-9.30pm
- Thurs 20** **Community Coffee Morning** at the Village Hall 10am

January 2013

- Thurs 3** **Community Coffee Morning** at the Village Hall 10am
- Thurs 17** **Community Coffee Morning** at the Village Hall 10am
- Tues 29** **Parish Council Meeting** in the Baptist Chapel Hall 7.15pm
- Wed 23-Sat 26** **Panto - The Ice Queen** in the Village Hall - full details of where
to get your tickets and prices on page 7

February

- Thurs 7** **Community Coffee Morning** at the Village Hall 10am
- Thurs 21** **Community Coffee Morning** at the Village Hall 10am
- Tues 26** **Parish Council Meeting** in the Baptist Chapel Hall 7.15pm

March

- Fri 1** **Cheese Tasting Evening** in the Village Hall 7.30pm
(Newsletter event - see any committee member for tickets)
- Thurs 7** **Community Coffee Morning** at the Village Hall 10am
- Thurs 21** **Community Coffee Morning** at the Village Hall 10am
- Tues 26** **Parish Council Meeting** in the Baptist Chapel Hall 7.15pm

April

- Weds 3** **Annual Parish Meeting** in the Baptist Chapel Hall 7.15pm
- Thurs 4** **Community Coffee Morning** at the Village Hall 10am
- Thurs 18** **Community Coffee Morning** at the Village Hall 10am
- Tues 30** **Parish Council Meeting** in the Baptist Chapel Hall 7.15pm

May

Thurs 2 Community Coffee Morning at the Village Hall 10am
Thurs 16 Community Coffee Morning at the Village Hall 10am
Thur16- Sat18 Players' Spring Production
Tues 28 Parish Council Meeting in the Baptist Chapel Hall 7.15pm
Thurs 30 Community Coffee Morning at the Village Hall 10am

June

Thurs 13 Community Coffee Morning at the Village Hall 10am
Tues 25 Parish Council Meeting in the Baptist Chapel Hall 7.15pm
Thurs 27 Community Coffee Morning at the Village Hall 10am

July

Thurs 11 Community Coffee Morning at the Village Hall 10am
Thurs 25 Community Coffee Morning at the Village Hall 10am
Tues 30 Parish Council Meeting in the Baptist Chapel Hall 7.15pm

August

Thurs 8 Community Coffee Morning at the Village Hall 10am
Thurs 22 Community Coffee Morning at the Village Hall 10am

September

Thurs 5 Community Coffee Morning at the Village Hall 10am
Thurs 19 Community Coffee Morning at the Village Hall 10am
Tues 24 Parish Council Meeting in the Baptist Chapel Hall 7.15pm
Thur26-Sat28 Players' Autumn Production

October

Thurs 3 Community Coffee Morning at the Village Hall 10am
Thurs 17 Community Coffee Morning at the Village Hall 10am
Tues 29 Parish Council Meeting in the Baptist Chapel Hall 7.15pm
Thurs 31 Community Coffee Morning at the Village Hall 10am

November

Thurs 14 Community Coffee Morning at the Village Hall 10am
Thurs 28 Community Coffee Morning at the Village Hall 10am
Tues 26 Parish Council Meeting in the Baptist Chapel Hall 7.15pm

December

Thurs 12 Community Coffee Morning at the Village Hall 10am



PCSO GRETEL MAY **(07772 226209)**

Just to let you know that in September I got myself married so I am now PCSO May, I don't mind you putting this in the news letter as I think people are already getting confused! I can be contacted on 077722 26209 for any issues that you'd like to discuss with me.
Gretel.



COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNINGS



The dates for forthcoming Coffee Mornings will be:

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23-26 January, 2013 at 7.30pm
& Sat matinée at 2.30pm.

Wine and refreshments available.

Tickets: adults £5 Wed, £6 Thur-Sat, children £3,
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Temple Ewell W.I.

Not too much to report this month. Our November meeting was our Annual Meeting, when the committee and officers are elected. Plans were made for our December meeting which will be on 13th 7-9.30pm.

Rosemary won the competition and we rounded off the evening with a hilarious game of Beetle.

Happy Christmas everyone and best wishes for the New Year.

Knit-a-square Knitters

Thanks for all your hard work so far.

We are now supporting "Operation Sunshine" which has a local collection point in Folkestone.

Periodically through the year this charity sends a container to Africa and we will have the opportunity to use the container free of charge, thus cutting out postage costs. The charity will make use of our knitted squares by making them into blankets for shipping to Africa. The recipients of the blankets will be in different parts of Africa and will always be directed to those most in need.

As well as knitted squares, the charity requires children's jumpers, children's cardigans and knitted hats. The jumpers and cardigans should fit up to a size 8 years old and can be of any style. The hats can range from small to big because at night they are used

as night caps to keep their heads warm. If any knitter is interested in knitting any of these items and needs a pattern, please contact Antoinette Tourret at 01304 826292.

All those who have enjoyed knitting the squares may carry on with the knowledge that their work is reaching the most needy.

Please contact either Jenny Miles (824280) or Antoinette Tourret (826292) for further information about the charity. The charity does have a web site www.operationsunshine.org.

Antoinette and Jenny are very happy for completed items and knitted squares to be handed to them.

Vintage Model Railway Exhibition

A big THANK YOU to all those who were involved in the Exhibition on November 10th. The exhibitors who donated their time and who travelled from all over Kent; the ladies who baked delicious homemade cakes, the gentlemen on the door and all those who worked hard in the kitchen throughout the day making up rolls, serving drinks, rolls and cakes and dealing with the washing up.

Thanks to everyone's generosity in time and talents we have been able to donate £400 to the Dover Soup Kitchen to help support those in need, particularly during the winter season.

Christine Roberts





Temple Ewell Church of England Primary School

Introduction

Through this regular column in the Parish Magazine, we aim to keep you up to date with everything that is going on at Temple Ewell School.

Firstly I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to members of the village community. My name is Mrs Jo Hygate and since September I have been appointed to the role of Executive Headteacher at Temple Ewell School. As an Executive Head I am currently leading both Temple Ewell School and Kingsdown & Ringwould Church of England Primary School in Deal (where I have been a Headteacher for four years). Through my executive leadership a positive partnership is being formed between the two schools, bringing greater stability, capacity and efficiency to Temple Ewell School.

Over the last term I have really enjoyed getting to know the children, staff and parents at Temple Ewell School and there are lots of exciting events planned for the coming months – which I look forward to sharing with you.

School news in brief

Term 1 was a very busy and enjoyable one. We welcomed our new children and their families into the Acorn class and I am amazed at how quickly they have all settled into school life.

Love in a Box

Following a talk by Amanda Lomas and Jenny Miles, each class was inspired to put together a 'shoe box' of gifts for a child living in need - they filled seven boxes in total. These shoe boxes joined the 103 other boxes collected by the Sunday Club at St Peter & St Paul's Church (I hear even more boxes are coming in) – what a fabulous achievement!

Jo Hygate
Executive Headteacher





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OFSTED 2011 confirmed our ability to differentiate learning well for both age and ability. 'Pupils continue to make good progress through the school so that their attainment by the time they move to secondary school is generally above average'.
'There is a very positive engagement with parents and carers, with many commenting specifically on how well their child settled and is progressing'.

We have 'Share a class' sessions six times a year, where parents are invited in to learn alongside their children.

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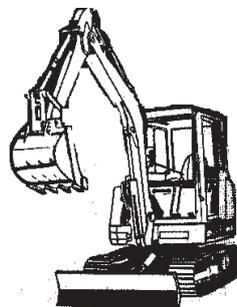
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Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul

December & January Services - to which we warmly welcome you. Our Sunday Club meets every Sunday during term time at 10.30am

Sunday 2nd Dec	(First Sunday of Advent) Parish Eucharist 10.30am NO Evening Prayer
Sunday 9th Dec	(Second Sunday of Advent) Shortened Eucharist with Presentation of Toys and Gifts for the less fortunate 10.30am Very special visit by Pip the Magic Christian Clown Evening Prayer 6.30pm
Sunday 16th Dec	(Third Sunday of Advent) Parish Eucharist 10.30am Service of 9 Lessons & Carols 6.30pm (Temple Ewell)
Wednesday 19th Dec	School Christmas Service 2pm
Sunday 23rd Dec	(Forth Sunday of Advent) Parish Eucharist 10.30am Evening Prayer 6.30pm
Monday 24th Dec	Christingle & Blessing of the Holy Crib 4pm
Christmas Eve	Midnight Mass of the Angels 11.30pm
Tuesday 25th	Sung Mass of Christmas 10.30am
Christmas Day	
Sunday 30th Dec	(The first Sunday of Christmas) (5th Sunday) Benefice Eucharist at St Mary's, Lydden 10.30am Holy Baptism of Elsa Margaret Boddy 5pm (TE)
Sunday 6th Jan	The Epiphany of our Lord Parish Eucharist 10.30am Evening Prayer 6.30pm
Sunday 13th Jan	The Baptism of Christ Parish Eucharist with Holy Baptism of Emma-Louise Collins 10.30am Evening Prayer 6.30pm
Sunday 20th Jan	Third Sunday of Epiphany (In the week of Christian Unity) Parish Eucharist (when we shall be joined by our friends from the Baptist Church) 10.30am Preacher: Moderator Ewart Graham (United Service at River 3pm)
Sunday 27th Jan	Forth Sunday of Epiphany Parish Eucharist 10.30am Evening Prayer 6.30pm

For the times of the Daily Offices and midweek services, please refer to the Church Notice Board.

If you are perhaps in a family which, in view of the hard financial situation, must curtail some of the excesses of Christmas this year, please remember that, by no means, are you alone. Also 'small', strangely can often be 'beautiful'. Certainly, it is no less loving, and indeed an understanding relative or close friend who requests no or only a very small present, may even welcome being enabled to express their love for you in this way. In fact, something in all this reflects the heart of God and the true reason for the Christmas celebration.

The Christian belief is that, in taking our flesh in the Christchild, God's action expresses, in an incredible way, his love. There is no fear nor force involved in his action and even his splendour is discarded. Rather, seeking only our love, he comes to us in a way which tugs at our hearts. God gives himself to us in the simple purity of a defenceless child – in smallness and vulnerability – and that smallness, as ever, is beautiful!

With every blessing for the coming holy season and special prayers for rather many homes it feels this last year knowing the loss of a loved one.

Fr. Paul

'Small is beautiful' and our delightful Church of St Mary the Virgin, Lydden welcomes all to the Eve of Advent 'Mulling' at 6pm on Saturday 1st December. Soak up nearly 1,000 years of history in the candle-lit Church whilst enjoying mulled wine, mince pies and fellowship.

Sunday Club & Bubbles

Sunday 9th December Toy Service - This is when a collection of toys is made for less fortunate children and Pip the Clown will be a guest. Please phone Jenny on 824280 if you can't get to the service but would like toys collected.



Making of Christingles - these will be made at 10.30am on Sunday 23rd December at Sunday Club & Bubbles. Please bring along an orange and £1. Otherwise, you can make them at home and we will provide the glowstick on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Eve - we will meet in the Millennium Hall at 2.30pm for songs and games and children will be ready to be collected by an adult at 3.30 to proceed to the Church for the 4pm Christingle service.

This service makes a beautiful start to Christmas celebrations and the making of the crib under the alter is exactly what Christmas is all about. A collection will be taken on behalf of the Childrens' Society, which cares for children in tragic situations.



Sunday Club Christmas Boxes

What a lovely afternoon was had by all at the afternoon tea organised to raise funds to support Operation Christmas Child. All the money raised was used to buy items that were missing from boxes, this year it was hats so if there are any knitters out there get those needles clacking so we have a big pile of hats for next year. Also for the



postage, it costs £2.50 to send each box which isn't bad when you think how far some of these boxes travel. The boxes we sent last year went to Belarus.



Well our target was 50 boxes and yes we did that and some. Thanks to Temple Ewell Sunday Club and the generosity of everyone who donated items, boxes, time and cakes 117 yes ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEEN children are going to get a Christmas present this year!

Thank you.

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Parking in DODS Mill Car Park.

In order to relieve parking problems in our car park it is our intention to publish in the Newsletter each month details of when we will be using it. Villagers are welcome to use the car park at any other time, but it would be appreciated if it is kept clear on the dates and times specified:

December car park:

Mondays and Wednesdays 7.00pm to 10.00pm

In addition:

Thursday 6th 7pm to 10pm

Friday 7th 6.30pm to 10pm

Thursday 13th 7pm to 10pm

Saturday 15th 7pm to 10pm

Sunday 16th noon to 6pm

January car park:

Every Monday and Wednesday 7pm to 10pm

In addition

Friday 4th 3pm to 9pm (scenery shifting)

Sunday 13th 8am to noon (scenery shifting)

Saturday 26th 7pm to 10pm

By the time you read this it is extremely likely that a container will be occupying one of our car parks. We are using it to store scenery temporarily in order to access areas in the mill while we carry out building work relating to fire regulations. We were advised by DDC that planning permission was not required for the container, and the Parish Council were also notified. We anticipate it will be there for several months. We hope it will not inconvenience any of you and thank you for your cooperation.

Please note that you may be asked to move your vehicle at other times where the Mill has been booked after the Newsletter print deadline.

Thank you in advance for your co operation. *Mike Brodie*



Councillor Geoffrey Lymer

Well as Autumn charges in leaving Summer feeling like a distant memory, already we have seen the party theme with Halloween then Guy Fawkes as we enter the festive season again.

Talking of the party theme, ten days after celebrating the actions of Guy Fawkes we were looking at parties again with the election of the first Police and Crime Commissioners.

The appointment of an independent Police Commissioner will be initially to replace the Police Authority and should oversee the Police Service at a local level. If we look at my statement there are a couple of points to consider.

Let us look at the crucial word INDEPENDENT. The Commissioner is supposed to be totally independent of political persuasion. This could mean that a Conservative, Labour, Liberal or UKIP member may find great difficulty in acting totally independent of their respective political boss's wishes or dare I say demands. The moment that occurs we have no longer Independence. Irrespective of which candidate is successful, you can rest assured I shall monitor their performance closely for any political interference. One may then feel an Independent candidate is safe on that basis, to a degree yes but I would be interested in whose party they have supported originally before standing as a candidate.

The second part of my statement states the "Police service at local level." Now let us be clear, irrespective of what candidates may state or political parties may profess, the Commissioner will not be in total control of all aspects of policing, for a start unless they were retired senior Police or Military personnel the average Commissioner will have very little knowledge of in depth policing such as specialist crime, Special Branch, Anti Terrorist Department, Major Organised Crime etc :etc: and I am even struggling to see what input a Commissioner could have on Central Traffic Units which are partially Home Office funded unlike Divisional Traffic Units.

So what can they do? They will be doing pretty much a similar role to the former Police Authorities. They will have a control on managing policing budgets. They are supposed to be identifying problem areas in a town/village, though I would doubt very much if they would be aware of a problem area before the police. They should be able to direct priorities for local policing, so for example if a town or village has a problem with someone supplying drugs, then they should be able to direct a priority into having the offender identified and arrested.

So let us do some number crunching. The substantial costs of the introduction of The Police and Crime Commissioner and their election costs has been estimated to be over £100 million or translated in another way could recruit another 3000 police officers and reduce the unemployment figure.

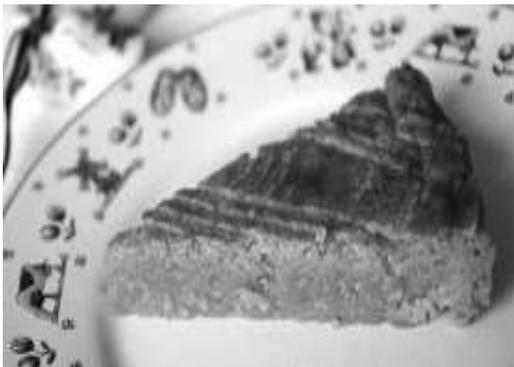
This was an important election which will impact on everyone of us at some stage in the future, I hope you all turned out to vote and reflected on who was the preferable candidate, the party politically sponsored one or the Independent with no apparent political allegiance. Whichever way you decided to vote, remember, whatever result we have after the elections, support your local police, they perform a truly superb service that we appear to take for granted these days and are the even "thinner blue line" as a result of cut backs by Central Government.

Cllr Geoffrey Lymer

Recipe of the Month

This recipe is from Neinke Thomas who, as some of you may know, is from The Netherlands. I'm looking forward to trying this one - it will make a tasty treat for over Christmas! We'd love to make this a regular feature so please send in any favourite recipes you have.

Boterkoek (Dutch butterbake)



Baking tin of 20cm diameter
200gms flour
175gms butter
150gms soft white sugar (or soft light brown)
1 egg
2gms salt
Optional: grated lemon zest

Preheat the oven to 180°C, adjust if you have a fan-assisted oven to about 162°C.

Put flour, butter, sugar, ½ egg, salt (and lemon zest) in a bowl. Cut the butter into small pieces and kneed quickly to a smooth dough.

Butter the baking tin. Push the dough into the baking tin and even out, the layer should be about ½ inch thick.

For decoration (and easier cutting after baking) cut a superficial pattern of diamonds in the top of the dough.

Put the baking tin in the middle of a warm oven for 25-30mins. Halfway through brush the bake with the remaining ½ egg.

Leave the bake to cool in the tin so it becomes slightly crunchy.

Turn and cut pieces along the diamond pattern.

Store in airtight container.

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CRAZY CHRISTMAS

Peace on Earth? Christmas is a time of stress caused by expenditure exceeding income; Aunt Mabel coming to stay; indulgence exceeding our capacity! The goodwill wears as thin as cling film when we are queueing at Tesco's! After over indulgence the Joy is replaced by Alka-Seltzer!

Did God get it wrong? Wasn't the first Christmas also crazy? God's son came as a Jew (the people most persecuted throughout history). Kept in a manger (cattle fodder holder). In a country under foreign occupation (by the Roman Army). Then a refugee in Africa to save him from being massacred. Couldn't things have been planned better? British born, in the 21st century with a suite at The Savoy would be nice!

Things may seem upside down but God comes to us where we are in the craziness of life.

VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Carol Service - Sunday 23rd December at 10.30 a.m.

Watchnight Service - Monday 24th December at 11.30 p.m.

Christmas Day Service at 9.30 a.m.

You are warmly welcome.

Our activities continue as usual:

Sunday Family Service: 10.30am

Sunday Evening Prayer and Video: 5.30pm

Monday Keep Fit: 7.30pm

Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer: 7.30pm

Friday Kids Club: 3.30 - 5.00pm

We are here to serve you and if there is anything you wish to ask do not hesitate to contact Pat on 827341, Jack on 825150 or our minister Ewart Graham on 375823.

Newsletter Distribution

We still require a volunteer to deliver the newsletter in the higher part of Templeside and Green Lane. Due to the terrain and number of steps this delivery round calls for someone fit with strong knees!

Please ring Jenny Miles on 824280 if you can help.

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PARISH COUNCIL PLANS SET TO DOUBLE COUNCIL TAX BILLS!!

Well, no, not really – but I did want to grab your attention! The Parish Council has twelve seats and currently we have four vacancies. Does this matter? Not so long as we are achieving for the Parish everything that the residents require and you don't want to have a direct voice in how your Council Tax is spent. If, on the other hand, you feel that you could contribute to our discussions and would like to have a direct input on future plans for our village, then why not come and join us?

Parish Councillors need to be registered voters and to live in the Parish or within three miles of the boundary. We meet monthly, except in August and December, and our meetings are fairly informal within the boundaries imposed by the Law. You will be assured of a warm welcome and friendly guidance on what, as a Parish Councillor, you can and can't do.

If you are interested to find out more about how you can serve our community, then please contact me or the Clerk, Mrs Jane Coulson-Wright, 5 Dour Side, River, Dover, CT17 0UX

Colin Smithen
Chairman

*The full Parish Council meets on the last Tuesday of the month
(excluding August & December) at 7.15pm at the
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Youth Club Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who supported the Youth Club's fundraising event on Saturday 6th October for MacMillan Nurses. It was a great day and we hope that everyone enjoyed it. It certainly looked like everyone was having fun making and creating things to eat; rustic tarts, scones and cheese twists, muffins, cookies and chocolatey things, tiffin, chocolate flowers and chocolate apples.

After expenses, a total of £147.70 was raised and sent to MacMillan Nurses to support the great work that they do. Thanks to everyone who helped especially Becky, Vicky, Tiffany, Luke, Lucy, Lawrence, Shannon, Ella and most of all Marilyn.

On Sunday 7th October we went on a trip to Thorpe Park and we all had a lovely day helped by the sunny weather. Thank you to Marilyn for arranging this.



Sophie Yarnley.

Seasons Greetings!



It's panto season hooray! The cast and crew of 'The Ice Queen' are now well into rehearsals now for our upcoming production. The songs have been chosen, the lines are being learnt and the set being constructed as we get set for the 23rd-26th January.

It's been a busy year for players as we celebrated our 40th year and we hope 'The Ice Queen' will kick off our 41st year in the same style. Tickets are available from the Village Hall on the 4th of December at 6pm, adults £5 on Weds and then £6 for Thurs, Fri and Sat. Children's tickets £3 all week. Please see poster on page 7 for full details!

See you in the new year!

Rachel

CHRISTMAS

The bells of waiting Advent ring,
The Tortoise stove is lit again
And lamp-oil light across the night
Has caught the streaks of winter rain
In many a stained-glass window sheen
From Crimson Lake to Hooker's Green



The holly in the windy hedge
And round the Manor House the Yew
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge
The alter, font and arch and pew,
So that the the villagers can say
'The Church looks nice' on Christmas Day

And London shops on Christmas Eve
Are strung with silver bells and flowers
As hurrying clerks the city leave
To pigeon-haunted classic towers,
And marbled clouds go scudding by
The many-steepled London sky.

And is it true, And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A baby in an ox's stall?
The maker of the stars and seas
Become a child on earth for me?



And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissue fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells,
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was Man in Palestine
and lives today in Bread and Wine.

John Betjeman (*Abbreviated*)

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Village Folk Christmas Special

I am sure you will all have heard of – but never actually met – the Temple Ewell Christmas Elf. Okay then, time to break cover but..... just this once You will therefore be delighted to learn that your roving reporter has scoured the woods, searched under numerous bushes and prodded in dozens of shrubs and has finally managed to make contact with this elusive little person.

Because he is very busy at this time of year, I have been limited to 4 questions only. So here goes....

Question 1 : With changing fashions over the years, your costume does not seem to have kept abreast with current fashion trends. Are you and your colleagues happy with the costumes provided?



Answer : Never really thought about it to be honest with you. We are all so busy throughout the year that comfort has to be our first priority. Our little shoes give us lots of space for our feet to grow into. Our pointed hats trap the warm air before we go outdoors and help keep our heads warm because, as you will all know from school lessons, it does get very cold in Lapland. I understand however that we have a leading fashion designer working in conjunction with an award winning engineer to design a pointed shaped hot water lining which could be inserted when needed.

Question 2 : Are any of Santa's reindeers a particular favourite with you?

Answer : Funny you should ask that because although we all get on so well together, I have to admit to have a particular soft spot for Rudolph. All us Elves do try to help keep his nose shiny and bright – we take turns in polishing duties. He loves jam tarts you know and always has a funny joke to tell us. What do you call a reindeer wearing ear muffs? Anything you want because he can't hear you!

We are also busy checking and cleaning all the reindeer's reins as we are expecting a visit any day now from the 'Elf and Safety Department (oh come on...how could I resist that one!)

Question 3 : When you are working throughout the year preparing toys etc at Santa's house in Lapland, what sort of food does Mrs Claus give you to eat?

Answer : Yum, yum – she is an extremely good cook as you can probably tell by her husband's rather jolly but enlarged waistline.. We eat lots of fish which are caught locally. Our fruit and vegetables have to be imported by plane as you can't grow anything in the snow! McDonalds has come to Lapland so I need say no more... Before we go to bed and if we have been good during the day, we do get a Chocolate Santa to eat but we have to brush our teeth afterwards.

Question 4 : How do you keep up to date with the latest toys?

Answer : That is easy – we all love to play in our break times. We get samples sent to us of the latest toys and gadgets and the newest technology. I particularly loved Power Rangers, then Transformers and the latest "must-have" is...as we all know... the new Furby – yippee. We have loads on board.

I thanked the Temple Ewell Elf for his time and reluctantly had to leave to let the little person continue with his busy work schedule prior to Christmas.

Both the Elf and myself wish everyone of all ages in Temple Ewell, a truly super and magical Christmas.



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Letters to the Editor

We're reviving the letters page and would like to hear from you. What do you want information on? Need help with something? Want to comment on a local issue? This is the place to do it! -

Send to the Editor - details on page 1

Dear Editor

I would like to thank Temple Ewell Women's Institute for providing an excellent 'Autumn Evening' on Saturday 20th in the Village Hall. The 3 course meal, plus a glass of wine, was excellent (especially the puddings...yum!) and the very tasty homemade pie and mash! The evening was further enhanced with brilliant folk singing featuring Kentish folk songs, some old and some new, followed by a very enthusiastic sing-a-long and raffle.

Many thanks to Jan Luckhurst and her team.

JENNY OLPIN

Dear Editor

I saw this piece in another parish magazine and it made me think!

In the time it takes you to read the Newsletter, someone, somewhere, will have died intestate - that is without leaving a valid will. If you don't have a will, you are effectively saying

I hereby leave my family several months, possibly years, of financial hardship and expense while they go to unnecessary efforts to sort out my affairs.

I hereby leave to my spouse some (but probably not all) of everything that I own.

I hereby leave to my children the remainder of my estate and give you the authority to enforce the sale of any part of it (including the family home) to realise your inheritance.

I hereby leave to Social Services the authority of guardianship of my children if they are orphaned and the power to choose who shall look after them, including allocating them to foster parents.

I hereby leave to the Tax Man all the tax I could have avoided and given to my family.

I hereby leave to my Bank and/or Solicitor the authority to charge whatever you feel necessary to sort out the mess that I have left behind. (I realise that this could make you one of the major beneficiaries of my estate).

To everyone else (my friends and relations, the charities and causes close to my heart, my church **I leave nothing**).

The absence of a Will can cause problems, heartbreak, financial hardship and unnecessary expense to your family at the very worst possible time. For a small investment of time and money YOU can write what YOU want in your Will, protecting your loved ones whilst enjoying peace of mind.

Jenny Miles

Dear Editor

I produce the Alkham Monthly Newsletter and I'm going to include the article below. I asked a doctor to read it through and he suggested that I contact other villages to see if they would like to include an item....

"NHS and RURALITY – The Primary Care Trust (PCT) has changed some of the areas around Dover, Deal and Sandwich from being rural to non-rural for NHS purposes. The Parish Council has been asked if they would like to be involved in the appeal against this change to which they have agreed.

If you live in a rural area your prescriptions can be dispensed at the GP surgery (if you also live at least a mile away from a chemist). It may be that only new people moving into the area are affected initially but rural GP surgeries rely on the money generated from dispensing.

Over time the loss of dispensing income might mean they have to close and the patients transferred to town practices. Alkham is set to remain rural, but if the appeal is rejected then the rural surgeries that some Alkham residents currently attend may close.

If you want further information perhaps the best idea is to ask at your local surgery."

Brian Wimsett

Class Comedians!

A teacher was giving a lesson on the circulation of the blood. Trying to make the matter clearer, she said, 'Now class, if I stood on my head, the blood, as you know, would run into it and I would turn red in the face.'

'Yes,' the class said.

'Then why is it that while I am standing upright in the ordinary position, the blood doesn't run into my feet?'

A little fellow at the back of the class shouted, 'Cause your feet ain't empty miss.'



The children were lined up in a Catholic school cafeteria for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples.

The nun made a note and put it on the apple tray:

'Take only ONE - God is watching'.

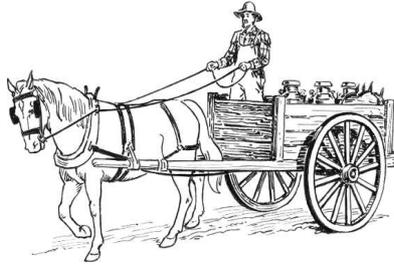
Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies.



A child had written a note, 'Take all you want - God is watching the apples.'

Some memories of village people from the past ...

My dad was a waggoner and although he only weighed seven and a half stone he wouldn't let the poor old horse pull him up the hill - he got off and walked. At Christmas dad would walk up to the stable at Whitfield with a mince pie for the horse's Christmas dinnerthere's dedication for you!



Lady Collier, who lived at the Abbey where she had a bedroom ceiling that was covered in angels, ran off with the chauffeur. When Sir Walter Collier was dying they laid thick straw on the roads from Kearsney Station to Bushy Ruff and up Lower Road so that it was all quiet for him. As kids passing by and being noisy, I remember the footman coming out and shushing us, saying ' Don't you know there's someone dying in here?'

Dick Woodcock lived at Bosney Bank and worked at the Gas Works. Every night when he left work for home on his push bike he would take a brick with him. After many years he built a bungalow and called it 'Surprise'.

Ernie Gambrill, the milkman, had a dairy behind The Donkey. He would walk the cows, Daisy and Buttercup, down to the river gap at Lower Road and then up Church Hill to Gambrill's Meadow just across the bridge. Mrs Gambrill would bottle the milk in her kitchen at Brookside and pay me 9d (old pennies) per week to help. Sometimes she would give me a couple of boiled sweets and a brown egg as well .

There was a lady called 'Wheezy Anna', her real name was Miss Newman, who lived on Church Hill. She used to dress in black with a hat that matched and she would walk up and down the main road shouting "jailbirds, jailbirds, every one of yer" at everyone and waving her umbrella. We used to see her at her window burning the cobwebs with a candle. She frightened us children to death. Sadly, she finished up locking herself in her bedroom and the police and fireman came to get her out and took her away.



The accuracy of these memories cannot be verified. They were collected by interviewing local people for a Parish Appraisal that was carried out in the 80's. We hope to print some more in future Newsletters when space allows.

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