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Temple Ewell Newsletter



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 May	07772 226209
T E School Executive Head Teacher	Mrs Jo Hygate	822665
Friends of TE School (Sec - Amanda Stone)	friendsoftheschool@fsmail.net	
Sunday Club	Mrs J Miles	824280
Friday Club	Mrs J Fowler	822792
Art Workshop	Antionette Turret	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	Trevor Barlow	824787
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
Wednesday Club	Marilyn	448140
	Trish	820966

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	823325
	Nienke Eernisse	331710

A Very Merry Christmas and Peaceful New Year to all our Readers

A reminder - there's no Newsletter in January, so see you February.

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](http://www.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

tenews.co.uk
Temple Ewell Newsletter



Village Diary 2013

December

Sun 1	Christmas Lights Switch On at Players' Corner 6pm
Thurs 5	Community Coffee Morning at the Village Hall 10am Also PCSO Gretel May's surgery 10.30-11.30
Sat 7	Youth Club Cook & Eat 2-5pm at the Village Hall
Thurs 19	Community Coffee Morning at the Village Hall 10am
Weds 25	Christmas Day - BANK HOLIDAY
Thurs 26	Boxing Day - BANK HOLIDAY

January 2014

Wed 1	New Years Day - BANK HOLIDAY
22- 25	Panto - T E Players - see ad on page 5 for details
Tues 28	Parish Council Meeting in the Baptist Chapel Hall 7.15pm

February

Sat 8	Gardeners' Coffee Morning in the Village Hall 9.30-11am
Tues 25	Parish Council Meeting in the Baptist Chapel Hall 7.15pm

March

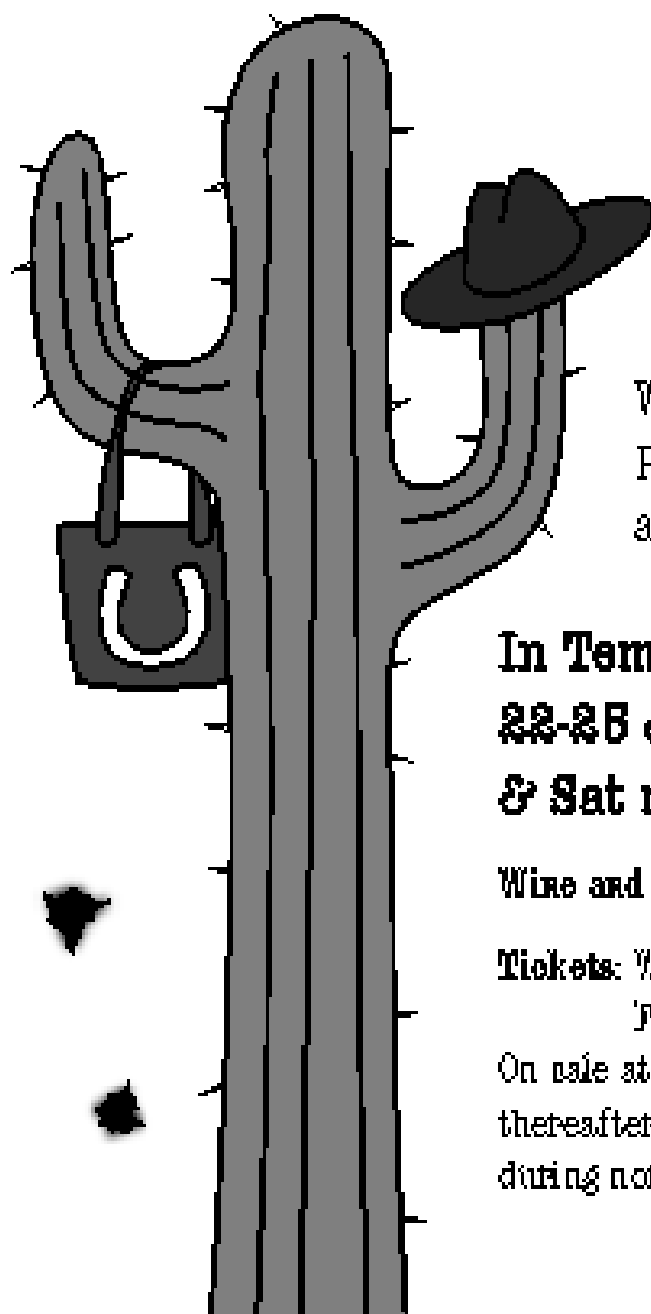
Tues 25	Parish Council Meeting in the Baptist Chapel Hall 7.15pm
Sat 29	Gardeners' Spring Show in the Village Hall 2-4pm

April

Tues 8	Annual Parish Meeting in the Baptist Chapel Hall 7.15pm
Fri 18	Good Friday - BANK HOLIDAY
Sun 20	Easter Sunday
Mon 21	Easter Monday - BANK HOLIDAY
Tues 29	Parish Council AGM & Monthly meeting in the Baptist Chapel Hall 7.15pm

★ **Temple Ewell Players**
present

Calamity Jane the panto



Written by Linelight Scripts
Produced by Mike Brodie
and Tonia Watts

**In Temple Ewell Village Hall
22-25 January, 2014 at 7.30pm
& Sat matinée at 2.30pm.**

Wine and refreshments available.

Tickets: *Wed/Thur adults £8, children £3*
Fri/Sat adults £7, children £3.50,
On sale at 8pm on 3 Dec in the village hall and
thereafter in the Fox Pub (823598)
during normal working hours.



Friday Club

The last month has been quiet but on 8th November we had the Divas in to entertain us. They sang songs from popular shows and we were invited to join in. This made for a lovely afternoon and we shall certainly be inviting them again in the New Year.

Sadly we lost one of our members, Dot Golder, recently. She will be sadly missed and our condolences go to her family.

Christmas will soon be upon us and we are certainly getting in the mood here at the Friday Club. It has now been confirmed that the children from Temple Ewell School will be calling in on 6th December to sing their Carols for us. This is such a wonderful time and leaves us all very emotional. I hope some mothers will pop in to see their children sing.

We break up on the 13th December until the 3rd January 2014 and finish the year with our party. Marilyn will be catering for us and the Youth Club will be helping with the distribution of our lovely lunch. We also have special guests coming in to entertain us and we are hoping that Santa will visit as well. I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

As a foot note I was saddened to hear that someone has made a complaint about the cars parked outside the Village Hall on a Friday. I would like to point out to the few that we meet for just 3 hours a week, namely 1pm - 4pm, these are not rush hour times and all cars parked carry blue Disability Badges. These badges are issued for a reason and not for fun. In the seven years I have attended the Club there has never been an accident or disruption outside the hall caused by our cars. The users of the road drive past with care as it is a 30 mph zone and are polite to other users.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing you a Happy Christmas and New Year from the Friday Club.

Yvonne

A row of bottles on my shelf, caused me to analyse myself
One yellow pill I have to pop, goes to my heart so it won't stop
A little white one that I take, goes to my hands so they won't shake
The blue ones that I use a lot, tell me I am happy when I am not
The purple pill goes to my brain and tells me I have no pain

The capsules tell me not to wheeze or cough or choke or even sneeze
The red ones smallest of them all go to my blood so I won't fall
The orange ones, very big and bright prevent my leg cramps in the night
Such an array of brilliant pills helping to cure all kinds of ills
But what I would really like to know is what tells each one where to go.

Vera Clarke

Village Hall Report

Summary of the Chairman's Report from AGM

The electrics were tested to comply with regulations, a new emergency light was fitted, the heating was overhauled and a new Gas Certificate issued. The front canopy was taken down, as it was rotten, and a new one put up. The rear windows have been reovated and painted and the Lower Hall window fixed. Hand rails were fitted in the lower toilets and the fire extinguishers had their annual check.

John Holness has been very pro-active in getting quotes and introducing regular checks and a vote of thanks was given to him. He is currently working on a fire alarm system.

The new curtains will be fitted in a couple of weeks, poles still have to be purchased and put up.

Bookings remain good and the possibility of raising rents is to be discussed at the next meeting. A donation of £300 was received from an unknown benefactor and this is being put towards the cost of a digital projector for the hall.

Major refurbishment has come to a standstill as no grant funding is forthcoming. Monies raised during 2010-11 are still in the bank, although there have been costs involved with just maintaining the hall. Anyone who wishes to assist with the administration of these funds is invited to attend meetings and perhaps volunteer to join the Trustees.

The Chairman closed the meeting by thanking all the Trustees and Alison Worton, Secretary, for all their support.

Flowerlicious are holding a **Christmas Door Wreath and Garland Workshop** on Weds 4th and Weds 18th December 7-9 pm

Join us for a fun-filled festive evening learning to make your own door wreath or garland, following a demonstration.

Tickets are £20. Places are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment. Price includes all materials, also a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie! Tools will be provided for use.



Please contact
Wendy Reed on
825058/07799338678
for further details
and bookings



Produce Association

Temple Ewell Gardeners A.G.M. Held 28 October in the Village Hall was well attended, all Officers were re elected to serve a further year. A new online entry form will be up and running this year all details are in the new schedule. You will be able to obtain your copy at the coffee morning on the 8th of February 2014 in the village hall 10-12am.

Come and have a coffee with us free of charge and rejoin the gardening club its still only £1 very good value, schedules will be available.

We would like to wish all our members and friends a Very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Trevor and Edie Barlow & Committee



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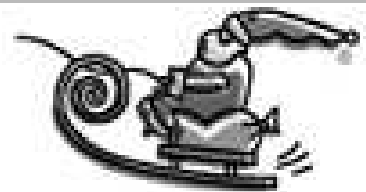
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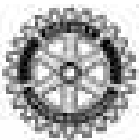
Santa is coming to Temple Ewell

On Tuesday 17th December between 6pm - 7.30pm

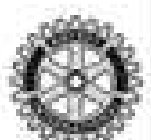
Santa will be driving through your street.

Listen out for his musical sleigh, wrap up warm and come outside to wave and cheer and meet Santa's elves and helpers. Give your letter for Santa to the elves and Santa will carefully read them later and make notes of what you would like for Christmas. The elves will give out lollipops to children from Santa's sweet store.

As the magic of Santa comes past your house, fill the elves buckets with pennies and pounds to help worthwhile charities.



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R.C. McDONALD

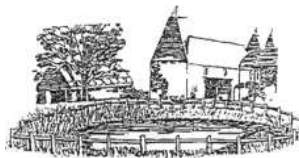
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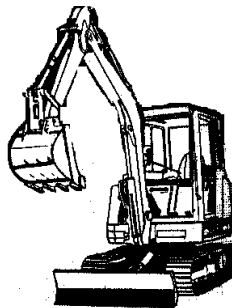
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Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul

**December & January services –
to which we warmly welcome you.**

Our Sunday Club meets every Sunday during term time at 10.30am

December

Sun 1st	(First Sunday of Advent) Parish Eucharist 10.30am
Sat 7th	Holy Baptism of Vinney Broadley 11.00am
Sun 8th	(Second Sunday of Advent) Shortened Eucharist with Presentation of Gifts for the less fortunate children and young adults – and a special visit from Pip the Magic Christian Clown! 10.30am
Sun 15th	(Third Sunday of Advent) Parish Eucharist 10.30am
Weds 18th	School Christmas Service 2.00pm
Sun 22nd	(Fourth Sunday of Advent) Parish Eucharist 10.30am (At St. Mary's Lydden - Service of Nine Lessons and Carols 6.30pm)
Tues 24th	Christingle and Blessing of the Holy Crib 4.00 p.m.
Christmas Eve	Midnight Mass of the Angels 11.30 p.m.
Weds 25th	Sung Mass of Christmas 10.30 a.m.
Sun 29th	(First Sunday after Christmas) Benefice Eucharist at St. Mary's Lydden 10.30am

January

Sun 5th	Parish Eucharist (of the Epiphany of our Lord) with Holy Baptism of Isabella Poole 10.30am
Su 12th	(The Baptism of Christ) Parish Eucharist 10.30am
Sun 19th	(Second Sunday of Epiphany) Parish Eucharist in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, when we shall be joined by our friends from our Baptist Church 10.30am Preacher: Moderator Ewart Graham
Sun 26th	(Third Sunday of Epiphany) Parish Eucharist 10.30am

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

I am not sure which was given more air-time during the final episode of Downton Abbey, but at times it felt as if the relentless and overlong Christmas advertisements were winning! Indeed, there was surely no 'humbug' about the Archbishop of Canterbury's recent criticism of the 'ridiculous and absurd' pressure this kind of advertising puts on relationships when families are struggling to make ends meet. Reflecting on the loving gift of God of his son Jesus Christ, the Archbishop had good and basic advice. 'Giving at Christmas reflects the generosity of God. So be generous in a way that shows love and affection rather than try to buy love and affection. You can't buy it, you can show it, and when you show it, it comes back

to you with interest’.

The season of Advent began as December began, and in the context of Christmas the word ‘Advent’ (meaning ‘coming’) generally refers to the approaching celebration of the birth of Jesus. However, it was not until the 6th century that the Church began to think of Advent in this way and, rather than being associated with Christmas, thoughts were directed to an end of time and the ‘second coming of Christ’. But our two parishes, at the Confirmation last month, have been wonderfully reminded of a third and most important way in which Christ comes again, and that is to our hearts.

At Christmas our churches will fill up, and that is great and as it should be, but in my darker moments it sometimes feels as though we are in a kind of ‘end time’ as far as the Church is concerned and a sign outside ‘Use it or lose it’ feels appropriate. So thank God for the youngsters and young adults who, very much of their own wanting have shown that Christ still comes to those who open their hearts. Their Confirmation was the best advance Christmas present the Church could have!

May God’s gift fill your hearts this Christmas.

Fr. Paul

Sunday Club and Bubbles

Our Annual Toy Service is on Sunday December 8th at 10.30am. Any donations of toys, small selection boxes or toiletries for teenagers would be most appreciated. Pip The Clown will be joining us.

We shall be making our Christingles in Sunday Club and Bubbles on December 22nd at 10.30am. Any child is welcome to join us for this session, but if you wish to make your Christingle at home then glow sticks will be available on Christmas Eve prior to the service. Everyone is welcome to join us at this special service at 4pm and the collection will be sent to the Children’s Society.

Sunday Club and Bubbles resume after the Christmas break on Sunday January 12th at 10.30am. Any child over the age of three and under the age of eleven is welcome to join us.

Margaret Austen





Temple Ewell Baptist Church

(Part of the Baptist Family in Dover)

CHRISTMAS MAGIC - MIRACLE!

The carrot and mince pie disappear from the hearth on Christmas Eve. Stockings filled with presents appear at the end of beds (sometimes even to very old children). The reindeer bells can be heard if you listen very carefully. Lights twinkle on the shrubs in the garden and also on the christmas tree. Carol singers can be heard approaching. Aunt Mabel has phoned and is sorry she will not be able to be with you this year. Feet up whilst the Christmas dinner appears on the table. The biggest pile of presents which are things that you really want. Family hostilities cease. It is a truly magical time. It is impossible. It is made up.

A miracle is also impossible. The Christmas miracle is impossible but it is true. God became Man! Jesus was born into this world, as a human baby. A Saviour is born. Is our Christmas make believe or true?

Christmas Magic or Christmas Miracle?

Why can't we have both?

VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Our activities continue as usual:

Sunday Family Service: 10.30am

Sunday Evening Prayer and DVD: 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.

PCSO GRETEL MAY



I can be contacted on **07772 226209** for any issues that you'd like to discuss with me. My next surgery at the Coffee Morning is on 5th December. **Gretel.**





Brownies

In September we went to Folkestone Sports Centre gym where the girls enjoyed themselves on the spin bikes, rowing machines, cross trainers and balancing balls etc. and they all want to go back again!

Also in September the Brownie Promise was updated, as we are now a multi-cultural country and the 2nd and 3rd lines now read:

“To be true to myself and developing my beliefs” and
“To serve the Queen and my community”.

Any girls who would like to join Brownies or Guides now have to visit website www.girlguiding.org.uk/interested and fill in the information required. Any adult who would like to come and help can also go onto the website or can phone me.

In 2014 Brownies will celebrate being formed for 100 years. We will start the year with over forty brownies going to the Panto at the Marlowe and our 100th birthday party on 8th January, also other events throughout the year.

Our new term starts on Friday 10th January, 6pm at the Lower Hall.

Anne Newington 827138



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Wednesday Willows

Wednesday evenings are still very busy.

Pictionary is very popular and everyone loves making sandwiches to go with their coffee. Our disco went really well, approximately sixty people came. Alex loved the music, karaoke and the hot dogs!

Everyone is looking forward to our bowling trip to Margate on Nov 17th.

More news next month.

Sophie



W.I.

An entertaining evening was enjoyed by everyone who came to our 50's & 60's night. Thanks to all who supported us.

Last month we had our Annual Meeting and Officers were elected for the coming year. Our next meeting will be on 12th December, we will be attempting to make Christmas flower arrangements under the guidance of Edie Barlow.

We will welcome Anne Hogben at our 9th January meeting. She will be reminiscing about her life in amateur dramatics.

Visitors always welcome.

We meet 7 - 9.30pm main hall.

Youth Club

Our trip to Camber Sands was really good. We played golf, rode on the family go karts, went swimming and danced at the disco. We went to bed at 3am and came home very tired! We all had such a good time we're going again at Easter!

We are looking forward to our bowling trip on 1st December and our Christmas Cook and Eat on Saturday 7th December in the top hall, hope to see you there.

Sophie

I made myself a snowball
As perfect as can be
I thought I'd keep it as a pet
And let it sleep with me
I made it some pyjamas
And a pillow for its head
Then last night it ran away
But first ... it wet the bed!





Temple Ewell Players

Ye haw!

It's that time of year again folks, Temple Ewell player's annual pantomime is a'rolling into town! This year it's Calamity Jane and we are looking forward to bringing the Wild West to life! Rehearsals are progressing quicker than the Deadwood Stage as the scenery starts to take its shape and everything starts to pull together.

The cast and crew are working hard to perfect the fast music, line dancing and their accents! It's certain to be a toe tapping, ye haw'ing extravaganza of a panto!

The show runs from 22nd - 25th January. Tickets are available from the Fox, Wednesday and Thursday £6 for adults and £3 for children, remainder of the nights £7 for adults and £3.50 for children.

See you there partner!

Rachel

**Would you or your company be interested in sponsoring
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Temple Ewell C of E Primary School

During Remembrance, the children in Oaks class have been writing letters home from soldiers.

Dear Isabelle,

I am missing you all, even noisy little Fly. I love that sheep dog. I think it was little Jenny's birthday last week. Is she seven now? Delia's birthday is in November, what does she want? I haven't seen them all for two years. It's this war. Even the Americans are fighting now. How is John? He was only a few months old when I left. The food here is terrible. It's porridge for breakfast (not a patch on yours). Lunch is mouldy biscuits and for dinner it's peas and half a sausage. I miss your Victoria sponge.

I am missing you, lots of love,
Christopher.

(Faith, Year 6)

Dear Jayne,

To start off I really love you. How are the Kids? Has the cat had her kittens yet? Johan and Kay should love them! The other day Sergeant Jacobsen died. I wasn't with him, I was told about it. The food here is disgusting! I miss you so much. I miss your cottage pie. It's freezing out here, no heating, no warm beds!

Has the dog recovered yet from his bad stomach? I hate it when it rains, because all the mud comes down on us. I wish I was back at home with you. The only thing keeping me holding on is the thought of going back home.

Love your very own man,
Owen.

(Kynan, Year 6)



We made the final!

Our school is in the final of the Kent Walk to School Song contest. We are up against seven other schools so to stand a chance we need your support and your vote!

Pupils at our school entered the song '**Zip-a-Dee-
Doo-Deh**' and will be invited into the recording studio to record the track this autumn.

In the meantime we need as many parents as possible to text to vote for us. The result will be announced on Christmas Day on the website www.kmwalktoschool.co.uk and maybe even on the radio station kmfm.



To vote all you need to do is text our voting keyword listed below, leave a space, add your name and postcode and send to **87474**. (i.e. SONGA Simon Dolby DA3 8JW)

All votes cost 25p plus your standard network charge. You will receive a text back confirming each vote. At least 7p of this charge will go to the children's charity KM Walk to School to help with its road safety work.

Temple Ewell Primary School: **SONGB**

Votes must be received by 12 noon on the 17th December 2012. Those received after the closing date will not count towards chart position and may be charged.

The No.1 charity track will be revealed on the KM Walk to School website on Christmas Day! To buy a CD of our school's song go to the website www.imusicpro.co.uk

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Village Folk



Chris Barnett is this month's guest and he appeared very briefly in last month's guest spot which featured his wife Gloria.

This will hopefully be an interesting journey to find out how his life turned from being a director within Dover District Council to becoming a fully trained scuba and diving instructor and yachtsman.

Chris was born in 1944 just outside Portsmouth where his father served in the Royal Navy. His father was posted for 3 years to Sri Lanka where Chris fondly recalls the family living in an old Portuguese fort and how he travelled to school each day by boat. They went on to Singapore for several years but eventually it was decided that the young Chris would be better served completing his education in England. So in his teens, he returned to live with his grandparents in Portsmouth.

He has always enjoyed studying a variety of subjects and after qualifying as a Chartered Surveyor, he also obtained qualification to the Chartered Institute of Housing. His first appointment was in the mid 1960s in a junior position with Portsmouth City Housing Department. Various promotions followed successful completion of qualifications and, in the mid 1970s, Chris landed an interesting job with the Milton Keynes Development Corporation. He moved his young family to the area which then was just a vast swathe of green fields. He was fortunate enough to be part of the large team of (mainly) architects involved in designing the new city. It was an exciting time - everything was to be built from scratch and the local Corporation was astute and progressive enough to give the team effectively carte blanche to design differing styles of housing. Chris recently returned to Milton Keynes and was quite amazed to see the physical transformation of the city, having come to life from the aspirational paper drawings they were all so involved with back then.

Chris has happily lived here in Temple Ewell since 1986, moving here with his family when he was promoted to Dover District Council's Director for Environmental Health and Housing. At that time, all foodstuffs via Dover into the UK were subject to checking by Chris's department. This included food potentially contaminated from the fallout after the Chernobyl disaster so you can imagine how very tight the import regulations had to be. Unbelievably, the vast cost of this was being met solely by Dover District Council (i.e. all of us!!) and Chris lobbied the Government for £250,000 per annum financial assistance, regrettably without conspicuous success.

Some years previously, he had successfully completed a degree in English Literature using the flexibility of the Open University; his degree mainly focusing on the Victorian era. He particularly enjoyed studying this period which also afforded him a much welcome insight into Victorian housing, buildings and conditions - a subject he found to be of great relevance in his new professional role because of the large number of Victorian buildings in the Dover area.

For relaxation, whenever he could get away, Chris would take his family sailing on their 35' yacht - whether it was racing in the Channel or sailing round the Channel Islands or even going over to Holland. Also, he and Gloria were - and continue to be - active members of the Dover Rotary Club. In 1992, he was honoured with the role of President and during his year, the club was asked to help

raise money to buy an ambulance for the then war torn city of Split in Croatia (which Dover is twinned with). They launched an appeal and within 2 weeks had amassed £3500 in donations. A second hand ambulance was then purchased from Essex Ambulance Service which, when they took delivery, they found to be jam packed full of complimentary bedding, stretchers, bandages etc. Our local Ford garage here kindly donated some spare parts, and a local sign writer freely gave his time to write "A gift from the people of Dover" on the side of the vehicle. A local transport firm serviced the vehicle and a free ferry crossing was donated. Chris was part of the team that eventually drove the ambulance over to Split, where we can only imagine how delighted the local people must have been to receive it.

The Rotary Club takes up a lot of Chris's time now and he quotes that the club is all about "getting things to people who need them". He is immensely proud to have been appointed to his current position of District Governor for Kent and East Sussex (i.e. responsible for some 2500 members in 84 clubs).

Until recently, Chris was also Dover Lifeboat Station Sea Safety Officer. This involved promoting the safe use of the sea by non-commercial users like yachtsmen, divers, sea anglers. He also covered events like the Regatta with the RNLI Sea Safety Roadshow, arranged lifejacket clinics and turned out at events like the Station open days.

Some 10 years ago, Chris took early retirement to follow his love of yachting and water sports, particularly diving. He had sailed as a child from about 18 months old and apart from a few years in Milton Keynes, had never lived very far from a port or ocean. His love of the ocean had increased over the years and now he had more free time, he managed to concentrate on some of the sporting aspects he had always been interested in doing. He is a qualified rescue diver and a diving instructor and, after some exhaustive training and testing which he undertook in Egypt, he turned professional some years ago. He chuckles, recalling that he was the oldest member of his group and they fondly referred to him as "the old man". He is also a Master Scuba Diver Trainer and enjoys nothing more than taking his underwater camera with him to capture the amazing and diversified beauties of the deep.

Keeping fit is an important part of his diving requirements and one of the ways he manages to do this is by cycling. He is a member of the Temple Ewell Cycle Club and has cycled the Brighton to London run twice, plus numerous other rides for charity.

He and Gloria have 3 children, 2 of whom live in Kent, plus 6 grandchildren.

I hope you will join me in wishing Chris and Gloria much continued charitable success, and good health for both in their retirement.



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Temple Ewell Parish Council

Stagecoach bus services along Lower Road/High Street, Temple Ewell

At the last meeting of the Parish Council, there was further discussion of the problems being caused by buses using High Street and Lower Road and it became apparent that there was some misunderstanding and misinformation in circulation concerning the issue. In particular, one member of the public present at the meeting suggested that the Parish Council's actions were motivated by the personal interests of two Councillors. This was both offensive and wide of the mark.

In order to clarify matters I thought that it might be helpful to set out details of the Parish Council's thinking and to invite all residents to attend our next meeting to be held on Tuesday 26 November when the matter will be discussed again.

I think it is fair to say that the buses passing along Lower Road and High Street did not present a significant problem before the new Service 15B was introduced by Stagecoach. This service runs from Dover to Canterbury via River and was put in place without consultation with either the Parish Council or our local District Councillor. The local Councillor for River was, however, consulted and, not unsurprisingly, supported the new service.

It quickly became apparent that the introduction of the service was causing problems because of the greatly increased volume of buses. It is not uncommon to have four buses meeting in Lower Road or High Street with two having to reverse past parked vehicles and pedestrians to a wider length of road. In some cases the buses have had to reverse out of the junction with London Road where visibility on the Dover side is not good. Photographs of this hazard have been passed to Stagecoach. There have also been reports of damage caused by reversing buses.

The Parish Council is extremely concerned about the danger and congestion caused by the additional buses and has met with representatives of Stagecoach in the hope of finding a solution. We have also commissioned a survey of bus movements which showed that 45 buses passed through the village between 8.00am and 6.00pm. 29 of these were Service 15B. The only buses that could be described as 'busy' were those around 4.00pm – school buses. The maximum number of passengers on any other bus was 15 with the average number being in single figures. The use of doubled decked buses (8 on the day of our survey, only 1 of which was busy) appeared excessive bearing in mind the narrowness and congestion of the route.

Stagecoach appreciated the concerns of the Parish Council and agreed to look at bus timings in order to improve the situation. This was welcomed by the Parish Council but, sadly, any changes made have had no obvious effect. They are now

looking into other proposals and will report back to the Parish Council at the meeting on 26 November.

The Parish Council most certainly does not wish to do anything which would remove a valued facility for residents, but feels that its overriding duty is to promote the safety of all road users and especially pedestrians, many of whom are school children walking along roads without footways.

The 15B buses are passing through the village because the vehicles cannot turn into or out of the junction near to the Railway Bell. We are, therefore, suffering disruption and danger through the Conservation Area as a result of buses which provide very little benefit to residents as the only bus stops are at the extremities of the route near to Kearsney Abbey and the Baptist Church. Residents would still be able to use the buses if they travelled along London Road by boarding or alighting near to Southdown Stores or at Players Corner.

The Parish Council is looking at various options to improve the situation. These include the use of smaller buses, modification of the junction at the Railway Bell, the introduction of a one-way traffic system through the village and the prohibition of parking along Lower Road. The prohibition of parking is not favoured by the Parish Council as it would remove a valuable amenity from villagers in order to provide easy access for buses which are, themselves, the cause of the problem.

All of these options, along with the proposals of Stagecoach, will be considered at our next meeting on 26 November at 7.15pm at the Baptist Church Hall.

Mr C Smithen, MBE Chairman

The agenda and minutes are displayed on the Parish Council notice board by the village shop, Southdown Stores, and on the Parish Council website.

Contact details for councilors are on the website:

www.templeewellpc.kentparishes.gov.co.uk

The full Parish Council meets on the last Tuesday of the month (excluding August & December) at 7.15pm at the Temple Ewell Baptist Church Hall on the corner of the High Street and London Road. Parishioners are most welcome to attend and contribute to meetings.

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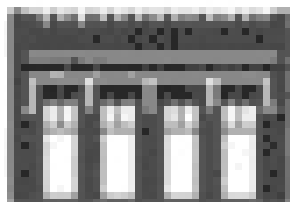
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There have been some changes in State Benefits recently. The Department for Work and Pensions has announced the benefit cap is in place for all affected claimants and fully implemented, therefore anyone making a claim from now on will be assessed to see if the claim applies. The benefits included in the cap are:- Bereavement Allowance, Carer's Allowance, Child Benefit, Guardian allowance, Housing benefit with exception to households in supported Exempt Accommodation, Incapacity Benefit, Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Maternity Allowance, Reduced Earnings Allowance, Severe Disablement allowance, Widow parent's allowance/Widowed Mother's Allowance/Widow's Pension.

Any benefit not listed will not be capped. You will be exempt from the cap if you, your partner or a dependent child is entitled to Working Tax Credit and you/they have claimed. Alternatively, exemption is given to claimants receiving any of the following:- Disability Living Allowance/Personal Independent Payment, Attendance Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance (if claimant is in the support group), Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit, Armed Forces Independence Payment, Armed Forces Compensation Scheme, War Disablement Pension, War Widow's or Widower's Pension.

Universal Credit will be replacing Income Support, Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Related Employment and Support Allowance, Child Tax Credit, Working Tax Credit and Housing Benefit. Budgeting Loans will be abolished, with an advanced payment of Universal Credit substituted for the loan. It is expected that the transfer of claimants receiving those benefits being replaced will be complete by 2017. If you are in receipt of any benefits being scrapped, you will receive correspondence explaining when and how you will be affected in due course.

The process of inviting existing claimants of Disability Living Allowance to make a claim for Personal Independence Payment began on the 28th October this year.

Finally there is now a requirement in force for people claiming Winter Fuel Payment and living in Switzerland or the European Economic Area countries outside the UK to demonstrate a genuine and sufficient link to the UK. This move comes ahead of proposals to restrict the payments, thus preventing those living in warm/hot countries from getting the benefit.

Geoffrey Lymer



Letters to the Editor

We 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

Thanks to everyone who came and supported the Church Christmas Bazaar, despite the appalling inclement weather, when nearly £700 was raised. Thanks are extended to all those who contributed most generously to the stalls, tombola and marvellous raffle.

The new timing from 11am was deemed to be a success and many soup lunches were enjoyed. **Jenny Miles**

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The first campaign in spring last year saw average savings of £100 per year for dual fuel customers. The current campaign launches on 10 December and will continue until 17th February 2014.

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