

Eastry Parish Council

**Annual Parish Meeting
Wed 27th May 2009**

**Eastry Village Hall
7.00pm**

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the Last Annual Meeting 20-5-08
3. Matters Arising
4. Cllr Andrew Finnis - Hougham Without Parish Council – Climate Change Project
5. Chairman’s Report – Including Finance Report
6. Reports
 - KCC – Kent County Councillor Leyland Ridings
 - DDC – Cllr Steven Manion & Cllr Nick Kenton
 - Mr Tim Halling – Head Teacher at Eastry School - Written Report
 - Mr John Waring – Greville Homes - Written Report
7. Police Issues
8. Eastry Hospital Site Development Plans
 - Mr G Hollaway on behalf of Runnymede Investments Ltd

Questions will be invited from the floor after each speaker

The meeting will close at 9.30pm and refreshments will be served

Now to the formalities, I would like to thank Mrs Sheila Broster and Malcolm for keep the village clean and tidy. Their tireless work is very much appreciated. Thanks also go Mr Richard Swain for mowing the grass area around the pond and for his work with the local Neighbourhood Watch. Richard also keeps the public toilets clean and stocked.

Next to the ladies that run the Coffee Break, for those that don't know this is a drop-in held in the village hall every Friday morning. All parishioners are welcome to come along and sample the home cooking provided by Cllr Margret Pemble. Cllr Sandra Hooper also helps and she operates the hearing aid clinic on the 2nd Friday of every month, and last but by no means least, Mrs Iris Mollart, who although no longer on the Council still helps every Friday. If you have not yet been to Coffee Break please do the company and the cakes are worth a few hours of your time.

We are very lucky in this village to have both a community warden and a PCSO; I would like to thank both Bob and Haydn for their help and support over the past year.

At the start of the year a programme of work was started at the pond, I would like to thank Trevor Burton and his working party for their contribution to this project. There are many more people that make a great contribution to the village, far too many to mention here, the group of volunteers that open and close the picnic site, the members of the numerous clubs and societies that contribute to village life, all your efforts are appreciated by myself and my fellow Councillors.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors for their help and support during my first 6 months as chairman; they have made the job a pleasure.

The one person I have not mentioned is our Clerk, Sarah Wells, she keeps us all on an even keel and her work is much appreciated.

Whilst researching my report for tonight I looked at the Chairman's reports from the past few years, and there seemed to be some reoccurring themes, the Parade, Eastry Hospital, Speeding in Lower Street, Cemetery Extension and plans for Eastry Court Farm buildings. The Chairman over the past few years have had nothing positive to report in these areas, it has been "in progress" or "being looked into", so I am really pleased to give the following updates:-

- Parade –The work is nearing completion; more detail will follow later in the meeting.
- Eastry Hospital – representatives of the developer are here tonight to outline the proposals for the site.
- Speeding – following a very successful meeting between members of the Council, KCC and DDC we are hopeful that an interactive speed sign will be installed in Lower Street. The Council have been offering to part fund this project for some years and for the first time this will make a difference to the priority given to the work by Kent Highway Services. Traffic surveys will be undertaken to help in the financial justification for the device.
- Eastry Court Farm and the Cemetery extension - both of these are tied up in the Local Development Framework process, so although the news is not as positive, this is being progressed.

I will close now and take any questions. There were no questions from the floor.

Finance Report — Sarah Wells - Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer

A complete set of the Council account for the past year were available in the meeting pack, the RFO went through these figures.

6. REPORTS

KCC Councillor Leyland Ridings - KCC have been given a 4 star assessment by the CPE they were rated 15th out of 147 authorities. Corporation tax is at 3.9%, however the government owe Kent £10m pounds for asylum seekers and we hope this will be paid back. In the past few months an emphasis has been put on road repairs and 7300 pot holes have been fixed. The Neighbourhood

forums trailed in the Dover area have been found to be successful and will be rolled out County wide during the following year. I have stood down as Chairman of the Sandwich Forum but will still be involved in the meetings.

I have control over three grant funds these are £10k in my personal grant fund and £9300 in the small capital grant fund and £13500 in an additional fund. Bids for this money need to be in by 29 August at the latest.

Schools across the district continue to achieve good results, with Sandwich High School being the 2nd best in the Country.

DDC Cllrs Steven Manion and Nick Kenton – Cllr Kenton covered waste management he informed the meeting that the Black Box scheme was now operation throughout the district and that green waste collection will also go district wide soon. Hopeful plastic and cardboard will be part of the door step collection by the end of the year.

Cllrs Manion then played a 12 minute video presentation outlining the plans for the regeneration of Dover. The video included plans for the development of the paper mill, Connaught Barracks, a Sea Sports Centre, replacement for Buckland hospital and a tower to contain a visitors centre, restaurant, telecommunications centre, port control and look out point.

Following the presentation Cllrs Manion & Kenton explained why it was so important that these plans for Dover should be carried forward.

Cllr Kenton then went on to explain that the Local Development Framework (LDF) public consultation stage was now complete, the LDF will be used as the basis for all development in the Dover District for the next 10 to 15 years.

Mr Tim Halling, Head Teacher Eastry C of E Primary School – last year Mrs Wade, who I'm sure many of you remembers retired after 29 years as school secretary, she is missed but as with all things life in school has carried on, I'm please to say Eastry School is in the top 20 of highest achieving primary schools in Kent, and in the top 5% of schools in the country for maths. Y2 results are above the national average and unlike other schools our numbers are constant as we are one of the most popular schools in the area.

During the summer our programme of refurbishment work has continued with work being carried out in years 3 and 4, the Library and the Kitchen. We have held successful open days every term and are regularly featured in the Mercury and our Easter service appeared on Radio Kent. Also our schools consortium carol service at Canterbury Cathedral was featured on Meridian news. We have also trained our second graduate teacher.

The school have risen at total of £2188 for charities this year, and have had various Fun Day and event including a Caribbean Day, Pan Cake races, decorated eggs and a dance festival at the Summer Fete. Our children have been on visits to Dover Lifeboat Station, Dover Museum Themed Days, Dover Castle, St Mary's Church, Residential Visit to Hardelot, France, Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury Cathedral, Walmer Castle, White Mill, and Pfizer Science Jamboree. In addition to this the following have been into the school to talk to the children Hall Place Tudor And Victorian Days, Various Authors, Theatre Groups, Fire Brigade, Fire Safety Talks, PCSO Haydn Powlter, Bob Priestley, Ambulance Service and RSPB.

We are very lucky to be able to offer a variety of clubs these are Golf, Tennis, Football, Dance, Conservation, Gardening, Chess, Recorder and a Music Ensemble. We have very close links with the Church operating children led services, which are always supported by our parents. We have a prayer group in school open to parents and Philip or Jennifer leads worship every Wednesday

I have a very dedicated and active PTA who has run the following fund raisers over the past year Bonfire Party, Easter Faye, Wine and Wisdom, Ladies Pamper Night, Summer Fete and a fashion show.

I would like to thank Pfizer volunteers for re-painting the playgrounds, play sheds and doing a makeover in the fledglings outside classroom, this was very much appreciated by the staff and children. Finally thanks to a wholly committed and talented staff, wonderful children, extremely supportive governors, PTA and parents.

I would like to run more lunch time clubs and am looking for volunteers that would have 35 minutes to spare to teach anything you feel would be fun and worthwhile, knitting, sewing, craft. You would need a CRB check but the school will do this, and I can promise it would be very rewarding.

The Chairman thanked Mr Halling for his report.

The Rev Pilcher – A written report had been submitted that was available for those present to read, in addition the Rev Pilcher informed the meeting that the parish was waiting a decision on whether or not the position of Priest at St Mary's Eastry would be filled, a working party had been formed to look into the financial implications of the appointment. The Rev Pilcher then asked if there were any questions from the floor.

Mr John Waring Chairman Greville Homes Charity – a written report had been submitted that was available for those present to read, Mr Waring said that at the moment there were no vacancies at the Greville homes, but should one come up it would be advertised in the village.

7. PARADE UPDATE

Unfortunately Cllr West had been unable to attend the meeting but he had sent a written report that was read out by the Chairman.

The project to revitalise the parade is nearing completion due at the end of May. The project will have taken 8 weeks in total to complete. At present we are waiting for EDF energy to connect us into the main supply and a delivery for rubbish bins which has been delayed. The project will be on budget as agreed with the contractor when first tendered a few years ago.

The working committee would like to thank all those who have generously contributed to the scheme but would urge anyone who has not yet donated and would like to be a part of the time capsule document to fill in a form before leaving tonight. Please speak to one of your parish councillors for a form.

The school have hopefully been busy preparing a project to gather items ready for the time capsule. Thanks to Helen Farrall of Humpty Dumpties for arranging a sponsored event for the children as a way of fund raising.

Once the project has been handed over we will have a small ceremony to bury the time capsule and lay a stone to record the event. Hopefully we can get the local press to turn up and a few dignitaries if we are lucky.

The committee would also like to thank the local shop owners for their patience and commitment to the project whilst the construction has been on going.

We hope once completed the area will be used more by the village and will encourage more people to use the shops and village in general.

There were no questions from the floor.

8. POLICE ISSUES

Inspector Paul Ludwig – Inspector Ludwig informed the meeting that he had been a police officer for 25 years now, when he joined the force every rural village had a police officer and a police house or station. Over the years this has changed as Police became centred on towns and cities and rural areas were left without community cover. He said that over the past two years Kent Police had been trying to rectify this by introducing a designated Warden, PCSO or Police Officer into all the rural villages. As part of this process Partners and Communities Together (PACT) was being rolled out. This entailed a Police Officer attending all Parish Council meetings so that any problems could be reported and resolutions discussed. As the PACT item would become an agenda item any issues would be minuted which would make the Police accountable. Eastry Parish Council had signed up to Pact in January.

There was one question from the floor concerning police contact telephone numbers.

The Chairman thanked Inspector Ludwig.

9. EASTRY HOSPITAL SITE DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Mr G Hollaway and Mr M Whitby of CTM Architects were in attendance representing there client and owner of the Eastry Hospital site Runnymede Investments Ltd.

Mr Hollaway showed a layout of the site and explained how they would like to see it developed, no plans had been submitted to DDC yet however extensive talks had taken place between CTM and DDC planning department. At the moment the master layout plan detailed a mixture of flats, terraced; semi detached and detached properties, a total of 69 units in all. In line with government legislation 30% of these properties would be affordable. The site layout allowed for a lot of open space and an amenity area. The listed building fronting the site would be converted into commercial office units. With a separate parking area in front of the building that would be for the use of these commercial units only.

Members of the Parish Council had also spoken to CTM and Runnymede about the possible use of the Old Chappell as a Parish Council room and community centre to replace the current Parish Room on the recreation ground that was no longer fit for purpose. Runnymede investments were open to this idea, but the architects were proposing to swap the requirement for 70% rented and 30% shared equity to 70% shared equity and 30% rented, on the affordable housing stock. This still gives the same amount of affordable housing but gives a greater opportunity for local people to buy into the housing market.

Mr Hollaway explained that the current layout allowed for two parking places per unit, this was above the governments level of 1.5. The density of houses was a lot lower than current government guidelines on land usage.

Question from the floor were then taken, the main concern of the meeting was on Highways issues, an additional 69 units in the Village could potentially mean an additional 138 cars, as well as the vehicles going to the commercial units. The road infrastructure of the village is already stretched and speeding and parking are major concerns.

Cllr Kenton pointed out that as this site had been listed for development in the current adopted plan, then it was going to be developed. What is important is to get the best and most sympathetic development possible. At the moment the limiting factor on the number of units on the site was the poor road infrastructure.

A question about the actual design of the properties was raised; Mr Hollaway informed the meeting that as yet plans had not been drawn up. The possible existence of a Cemetery on the site was brought up, CTM were unaware of this and asked that anyone with knowledge of the location of a Cemetery please let them know. Other more specific questions were asked and answered.

Mr Hollaway ended his presentation by saying that before a planning application was submitted to DDC that he would like to come back and hold a drop-in in the village. This would run from about 3 in the afternoon until 8 in the evening to allow as many people as possible to attend. The plans for the site would be on display and he would try and get a traffic consultant along to deal with the highways issues. People could then come and see the plans and ask questions on a one to one base. Feedback from this session would be used to finalise the Planning Application.

Once the plans were submitted to DDC the Parish Council would hold a drop in to give local people a change to see the plans, so they could make any comments or objections to DDC.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hollaway and Mr Whitby for attending, he also thanked the members of the public for coming to the meeting, and he invited everyone to stay for refreshments.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST YEARS MEETING

The Parish Council had not been asked to undertake any actions at last years meeting.

2008/09 FINANCE REPORT – YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2009

RECEIPTS

Current Account	Budget	Actual
Precept	43,581.00	43,581.00
Rents		
Parish Room	300.00	251.50
Allotments	250.00	519.60
Burials	800.00	2,599.00
Grants	0.00	1,500.00
Interest Current Account	750.00	636.14
Parade	0.00	1,646.75
VAT		6,280.56
Other	0.00	1,717.24
	45,681.00	58,731.79
Brought Forward Current Account	17,818.37	17,818.37
Parade Fund	13,000.00	13,000.00
Total Current Account fund for year	76,499.37	89,550.16

PAYMENTS - CURRENT ACCOUNT

	Budget	Actual
<i>Admin</i> Clerks Salary	9900.00	9,529.32
PC national Insurance Contribution	372.00	346.34
Pension Contribution	1120.00	1,068.82
	11,392.00	10,944.48
Clerk Telephone Rental & Internet Access	300.00	244.01
Office Allowance	270.00	280.00
Stationery	350.00	268.42
Petty Cash	400.00	340.00
Audit Fees	400.00	400.00
Internal Auditor	200.00	202.50
Insurance	3,000.00	2,182.59
Training	300.00	0.00
Travelling/Cllrs Expenses	300.00	0.00
Annual Meeting	120.00	69.46
Web-Site	175.00	234.13
Wreath - remembrance Sunday	21.00	19.00
	17,228.00	15,184.59
<i>Parish Room</i> Rates	45.00	47.22
Gas	125.00	128.29
Electric	125.00	119.95
Fire Extinguishers Check	130.00	45.65
Boiler Service	60.00	50.00
maintenance/improvements	1,760.00	205.96
	2,245.00	597.07
<i>Pavilion</i> Fire Extinguisher Checks	130.00	48.55
<i>Ground Work</i> ChchYard & Cemetery	3,696.00	3,693.00
Recreation Ground	652.00	592.00
Gun Park	1,695.00	1,575.00
Allotments	1,030.00	1,080.00
Land Behind Bus Shelter	200.00	175.00
Cut Hedges/Overhanging Verges	1,000.00	1,700.00
Tree Work all areas	4,000.00	0.00
Additional Work	750.00	560.00
Work to Football Pitch	2,000.00	0.00
Mow Pond	200.00	420.00
Parade	200.00	87.50
	15,423.00	9,882.50
Church Yard Maintenance/works	1,000.00	175.86
Church yard Wall	2,000.00	0.00
Monument Safety	500.00	0.00
Grave Excavation	0.00	995.00
	3,500.00	1,170.86

<i>Allotments & Leisure</i>	Maintenance	2,000.00	1,439.07
	Vandalism Repairs	1,000.00	10.00
	Bins & Dog Loos	350.00	0.00
	Pooper Scoopers	300.00	416.00
	Water	125.00	108.66
	Pond	500.00	633.86
	Play Equipment Inspection	420.00	225.00
	Deposit Returns	0.00	5.00
		4,695.00	2,837.59
<i>Toilets</i>	Cleaning	1,680.00	1,615.00
	Supplies	72.00	64.74
		1,752.00	1,679.74
Grants	Grants	1,200.00	1,180.12
	Parish Magazine	500.00	500.00
	Coffee Break	850.00	619.26
		2,550.00	2,299.38
<i>Highways</i>	Horse Trough	50.00	39.25
	Cleaning Footways/Footpaths labour	3,512.00	3,542.50
	Cleaners Tools	105.00	40.43
	Petrol/Oil - service strimmer	80.00	0.00
	Traffic Calming	5,500.00	0.00
		9,247.00	3,622.18
<i>Membership</i>	KAPC	500.00	502.00
	Publications	100.00	13.50
	SLCC	60.00	74.50
	Action Communities Rural Kent	45.00	70.00
	Kent Playing Field Ass	30.00	0.00
	Ass of Burial Authorities	95.00	90.00
		830.00	750.00
	Contingency/Section 137	1,899.37	108.43
	Parade	17,000.00	29,157.90
	VAT	0.00	5,553.98
		76,499.37	72,892.77

2009/10 ADOPTED BUDGET

RECEIPTS

Current Account

Precept		44,888.00
Rents	Parish Room	250.00
	Allotments	250.00
	Burials	600.00
	Grants	0.00
	Interest Current Account	750.00
	VAT	0.00
	Other	0.00
		46,738.00
Brought Forward	Current Account	21,598.81
Total Current Account funds for year		68,336.81

PAYMENTS - CURRENT ACCOUNT

	Budget
<i>Admin</i> Clerks Salary	10,104.00
PC national Insurance Contribution	372.00
Pension Contribution	1,145.00
	11,621.00
Clerk Telephone Rental & Internet Access	300.00
Office Allowance	270.00
Stationery	350.00
Petty Cash	400.00
Audit Fees	400.00
Internal Auditor	225.00
Insurance	3,000.00
Training	300.00
Travelling/Cllrs Expenses	300.00
Annual Meeting	120.00
Web-Site	175.00
Wreath - remembrance Sunday	22.00
	17,483.00
<i>Parish Room</i> Rates	55.00
Gas	130.00
Electric	130.00
Fire Extinguishers Check	130.00
Boiler Service	60.00
maintenance/improvements	1,760.00
	2,265.00
<i>Pavilion</i> Fire Extinguisher Checks	130.00
<i>Ground Work</i> ChchYard & Cemetery	3,868.00
Recreation Ground	710.00
Gun Park	1,759.00
Allotments	1,079.00
Land Behind Bus Shelter	200.00
Cut Hedges/Overhanging Verges	1,000.00
Tree Work all areas	3,500.00
Additional Work	750.00
Work to Football Pitch	2,000.00
Mow Pond	480.00
Parade	200.00
	15,546.00
Church Yard Maintenance/works	1,000.00
Church yard Wall	2,000.00
Monument Safety	500.00
Grave Excavation	0.00
	3,500.00

<i>Allotments & Leisure</i>	Maintenance	2,000.00
	Vandalism Repairs	1,000.00
	Bins & Dog Loos	350.00
	Pooper Scoopers	400.00
	Water	150.00
	Pond	1,000.00
	Play Equipment Inspection	420.00
		5,320.00
<i>Toilets</i>	Cleaning	1,680.00
	Supplies	80.00
		1,760.00
<i>Grants</i>	Grants	1,400.00
	Parish Magazine	600.00
	Coffee Break	900.00
		2,900.00
<i>Highways</i>	Horse Trough	50.00
	Cleaning Footways/Footpaths labour	3,800.00
	Cleaners Tools	105.00
	Petrol/Oil - service/new strimmer	450.00
	Traffic Calming	6,000.00
		10,405.00
<i>Membership</i>	KAPC	550.00
	Publications	150.00
	SLCC	85.00
	Action Communities Rural Kent	45.00
	Kent Playing Field Ass	35.00
	Ass of Burial Authorities	95.00
		960.00
<i>Contingency/Section 137</i>		3,067.81
	Parade - Electricity	1,000.00
	Other Projects	4,000.00
		68,336.81

ALLOTMENTS AND LEISURE REPORT

Allotments.

For the first time for many years, all Allotments are now rented out and there is a great deal of activity taking place. Some people have worked hard to clear and plant very overgrown Allotments not cultivated for years.

We will now start a waiting list in case an Allotment becomes vacant.

Gun Park.

This area is a well used amenity in the village, by children of all ages, in the play areas or the Skate ramp. It's also a nice sunny place to sit and watch the world go by, or to have a chat with friends.

There seem to be some very good Artists in the village if the Graffiti Wall is an example of their work it's very colourful, and brightens up that little corner.

The biggest problem is Litter. Some days after the area have been used at the week-ends it looks like a "paper chase" has taken place. There are plenty of litter bins so could they please be used.

Dog Fouling has also been reported on many occasions, so please clear up after your dog. There are plenty of Poo Bags available from the Post Office and the Chemists. There are several Dog Bins in Gun Park.

Picnic Site.

This site is managed by KCC for us, and they are responsible for grass cutting and maintenance.

During the autumn the picnic tables were replaced the previous ones had been there for many years.

There are now bollards in the entrance to stop the verges from being damaged.

A tree inspection has been carried out and proved satisfactory, although some small lower branches may be removed to allow the mower better access.

A "Thank You" to all the volunteers who open and close the picnic site in all weathers for our benefit.

Pond.

We worked on the pond during February to clear more overgrown saplings, especially beside the road. This will enable contractors to paint the railings from the inside not the dangerous road side.

We also cleared the gully so that the excess rain water now runs into the Pond. It is nice to see more water in the Pond which we hope will encourage wild life.

Hopefully we will in the autumn, once again, have a machine to clear more of the overgrown area thus creating more open water. We now have a Pond Warden Simon Dundas, who will work with Trevor Burton and any volunteers to carry out the work required. It is hoped that some new trees mainly berried variety could be planted to encourage the birds.

Cllr Sandra Hooper - Chairman of the Allotments and Leisure Committee

EASTRY CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

The school has enjoyed another very successful and busy year. We were all saddened by the untimely and tragic death of Christine Gibb who fought a courageous battle with cancer. We have really missed Christine's cheery face around the school.

Debbie Smith was granted early retirement on ill health grounds. Many of you will have had children taught by Debbie and will remember how she taught children to achieve their potential.

The children have had a huge range of activities to benefit from with many visits and visitors to enhance their education. Children have visited Dover Museum on numerous occasions. Dover Fire Station, White Mill, Walmer Castle, Dover College, Pfizers, Wingham Wildlife Park, The East Kent

Ploughing Match, The Marlowe Theatre, The Odeon Cinema, Dover College, The Roman Painted House, Richborough Fort, the Ecole Saint Genevieve in Lille. The South Foreland Lighthouse, St Margaret's Bay, St Mary's Church and the Houses of Parliament. Year 6 spent 3 days at Bewl Water with John O'Gorman, Cath Marchbanks, Marcelle Kemp and Ryan Hayes and had a fantastic time. We were also featured as Radio Kent's School of the Week on the Pat Marsh show

We have also had many visitors come into school to supplement our curriculum. These have included authors, musicians, artists, actors, Pfizer scientists, Howletts, an international gymnast, sports coaches and 60 children and staff and parents from the Ecole Saint Genevieve in Lille. Bob Priestley, Reverend Jennifer Pilcher and Father Philip Clements visit the school regularly and we are grateful for all that they do for the school.

The children have raised large amounts of money for charity including over £600 for Keep Fit Kids, £282 for The Viking Day Care Centre at QEQM (in memory of Christine Gibb), £142 for the Children's Society, £102 for Red Nose Day, £72 for Walmer Lifeboat £81.41 for the Marie Curie Foundation and £100 for CLIC Sargeant.

The PTA have been very active raising money by organising our summer BBQ and dance festival, fun afternoons, our Christmas Bazaar, discos, present wrapping and the ever popular Easter Egg Hunts.

We have extended the choice of clubs, both at lunchtime and afterschool thanks to parents and friends volunteering to give up their time. Clubs include football, netball, fencing, tennis, hip hop dance, golf, cookery, crafts (thanks to Woodnesborough WI), conservation, gardening (both flowers and vegetables), chess and recorder. We have recently formed a school orchestra thanks to All Sorts of Music, and we have just started a school choir. How can you help us?Volunteer to run a club or come and help at the school and hear readers, help children with their work, all of which is very enjoyable. Please do give us a ring (611360). We look forward to hearing from you!

Thanks

Tim Halling - Headteacher

GREVILLE HOMES REPORT

Greville Fulke Greville, a retired Naval Captain and former Member of Parliament, came to live at Statenborough in the 1820's. In September 1834, aged 83 years, he generously offered to provide a terrace of Almshouses for needy Eastry Residents if the Parish would find a suitable site. The offer was accepted, the land purchased, the houses built and the first residents moved in during April 1935.

Bathroom extensions with an indoor toilet were added in 1954, and in 1984 a scheme was drawn up for their modernisation and for the building of three new two bedroomed bungalows at a total cost of £320,790.

Although the criteria for qualifying for a residence has changed somewhat over the years, the 9 homes are very much enjoyed by the present occupants. It is now almost 20 years since the refurbishment and new buildings were completed, the Trustees hope they will provide the comfort to the Eastry older residents for many years to come.

In order to ensure this comfort and that the properties are maintained to a high and safe standard, the Trustees meet several times a year to discuss the residents welfare, the necessary maintenance and control the financial budget. So much so, during the past 12 months there has been An Energy Performance Check for each property, a Fixed Wiring Check with the resulting work of some minor upgrading of the electrical systems.

John G Waring

Chairman of the Trustees

EASTRY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY - REPORT FOR 2008

I'm pleased to report that, although it hasn't always been easy; the Society has once again had a full and enjoyable year. I have once again had the pleasure of welcoming several new members during the year, and I have thanked everyone who has gone out of their way to encourage new members.

We are very fortunate to have a smashing lady at the top of our podium, our President, Floss Cork, and I'm sure I speak for everyone in the Society in thanking Floss for her 63 years of loyal service to the Society, and may it continue for many more years to come.

We have had some varied and interesting speakers throughout the year. We welcomed the return of Len Stebbings. Len told us what a Vegetable Judge looks for on a Show Bench. In July we welcomed the return of Sue Scrivens, a lovely lady who gave an illustrated talk on 'Old Roses'. Paul Twyman came to see us in August and shared with us his early days as a Wisley Student. It was apple tasting time in September when Philip Wilson gave a talk about the 'Brogdale Collection' he brought with him a good selection of apples for us to sample. We enjoyed a unique slide show from Jeff & Sylvia Wagner. December was party-time when we once again all enjoyed our Xmas Social evening.

In February, we again held a very successful 'Fun Quiz'. I would like to thank all the Village organisations who kindly supported this event. In April, we organised a trip to Wisley, where we enjoyed all the Spring flowers and the new Tropical Greenhouse.

Our Plant Sale in May was once again a huge success. This event not only continues to attract a great number of people from the Village but also many visitors from all parts of East Kent.

In May, we organised a visit to Manor View Nursery at Kearsney – the Nursery that supplies the Bedding Plants for our Plant Sale.

In August, we organised a long weekend trip to Norfolk. We had the pleasure of welcoming aboard many E.H.S. members, along with members from Woodnesborough, Northbourne and River Gardeners, also several guests from the Village.

We spent three lovely days in Norfolk. On Friday, our first stop was at Southwold for lunch, followed by a visit to Ravingham Gardens. On Saturday we spent best part of the day at Sandringham, with a short stop at the Norfolk Lavender Farm before returning to our Hotel. On the last day, Sunday, we spent the whole day at the Bressingham Steam Museum and Gardens.

We once again held three very successful Flower Shows., These Shows filled the Village Hall with a lovely display of Flowers, Vegetables, Craft, Domestic and Floral Arrangements, all produced and proudly displayed by our Members. Local children once again did themselves proud by supporting all three Shows where they also took the opportunity to display their skills.

We once again, competed at the Kent Federation Summer Show at Detling in the 'Highgrove Inter-Society Challenge'. We were only just beaten into second place by half a point.

We also entered two exhibits in the Kent Federation Autumn Show at Sutton Valence. These were also inter-society classes, we won second prize in one and third in the other. We once again put together a lovely display for our Harvest Festival Table in the Church.

As so many members, have contributed so much over the past year, I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all of them for their dedication and hard work. Also to all Village Organisations and Village Residents who have kindly supported our events. We look forward to the forthcoming year and the continuing success of the Society.

Colin Coulson (Chairman)