



East Down and Arlington Newsletter



Merry Christmas to one and all!

December 2019

A day to be proud for one of our own!



On Saturday 9th November, our very own Richard Crocker of East Down took part in the 804th Lord Mayors Parade in London. Sadly, there are no pictures of him on the day but the photograph above shows him in full uniform taking part in an actual re-enactment.

Richard is a member of the 2nd Battalion 95th Rifle Regiment re-enactment group who were invited to the Parade by their modern-day counterparts GCoy 7 Rifles. The hosts are a reserve Battalion of 500 riflemen who train and work alongside the regulars of 5 rifles; having been deployed around the world including Iraq and Afghanistan.

It was a long weekend, starting with an overnight stay in the 7 Rifles barracks in West Ham; even Richard, a somewhat reluctant drinker, was tempted to take advantage of the Mess Bar at £1.50 a pint !! Despite a very late night, the actual day started with a bugle call at 5 a.m. and following ablutions and breakfast, the parade joined up for a 10.30 a.m. start. In a march lasting over 3 hours, the Rifles contribution was an impressive timeline spanning over 200 years of history, made up of 7 eras dating from 1808 through to modern day. Richard's 2/95th Rifles (1815) being positioned between the 5/60th Rifles (1808) and the Rifle Brigade (1853). The weather behaved itself and in front of a large enthusiastic crowd, it proved to be very much a day to

remember.

Richard is passionate about the Napoleonic era and after several years of English Civil War re-enactment joined the 95th Rifles Group in 2015. His unit is 30 strong but belongs to the umbrella Napoleonic Association which has 1000s of members worldwide. The group attends around 12 events a year, taking them all around the UK and across Europe. This year's Waterloo being particularly memorable as they camped in the garden of the infamous Hougoumont Farm and defended the equally famous North Gate from overwhelming French attack.

The group authentically recreate the camp life, drill and fighting of the Rifles circa 1815, their ethos is to educate and entertain. Their living history encampment is open to the public where they can interact with the soldiers and ladies and learn how the military of the period lived, slept, ate and relaxed during the period. They use equipment and clothes made with historical techniques and materials and each own a period correct canvas tent where they live during events. On the field they carry out drill and skirmish fighting, firing their famous Baker rifles! The group carries out extensive historical research and like their modern-day counterparts, train and drill exhaustively throughout the year to ensure they are 100% authentic.

As you may imagine, re-enactment can be an exciting as well as entertaining affair. With no personal injuries to report (other than having his cap kicked off his head by a horse at full gallop), Richard does confess that during an extended period of firing in Astorga in Spain, an elderly Spanish couple stumbled out of the scrub between the opposing forces and just managed to escape a cavalry charge.

As Richard says, he can't envisage a more interesting, fun and varied hobby which has taken him far and wide to amazing places he would otherwise never experience.

If you are interested in learning more, Richard will be pleased to answer your questions.



Events at the Village Hall in December

YFC Meeting Tuesday 3rd December at 7.00 p.m. Contact Amanda Smyth 850808

Coffee Shop Thursday 5th December 10.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon

Hosted by Harley and Mary Jackson

General Election Voting Thursday 12th December

Parish Council Meeting: Monday 16th December at 7.30 p.m. Contact Margaret Done 850432



Mobile Library Service

Next dates:

Tuesday December 3rd, January to be confirmed but possibly 14th. Kate can advise you of this on her December visit.

If you miss the East Down slot, the library moves straight on to Kentisbury Village Hall for half an hour so it is not the end of the world if you are over running a tad and miss the East Down visit.

Church Information

Flower and Church Cleaning Rota East Down

Margaret Done 24th November and 1st December
Deborah Crocker 8th and 15th December
Sandra Gregory 22nd and 29th December

Flower and Cleaning for Arlington Church

Everyone is to decorate the church for Christmas on Saturday 7th December.

Village Hall Cleaning Rota

December – Mike and Sally Corfield

The Newsletter

If you would like to send a photograph or an article for an event you have recently attended or you want to share a message or future event within the parishes of East Down and Arlington and surrounding villages please let us know by the 20th of each month. Mike or Sally by e-mail

eastdownnews@gmail.com

Regular Weekly Village Hall Activities

Senior Keep Fit:

Monday 10-11am Carol Thomas 850464

Table Tennis:

Tuesday 7pm Jill Parker 850549

Art Group:

Wednesday 2-4pm Margaret Smith 850727

Intensive Fitness:

Wednesday 6-7pm John Denyer 07402 920720

Short Mat Bowls:

Thursday 2-4pm Rod Crossman 850704

November Coffee Shop

Hosted this month by the delightful Lyn and Andy Norkett we were treated to a mid-morning plunge in temperature followed by a very impressive hail storm (at least it looked good when viewed from inside the warm Village Hall). The road and car park were white over but despite this, our hardcore coffee morning gang braved the elements and gathered for a very welcome freshly brewed cup of coffee or tea enjoyed with a wonderful savoury and cake selection and the usual chat. Sadly, some of our intrepid faithful regulars had to turn back at the Pyne Arms when traction became somewhat elusive.

Fortunately, by last orders, the slush was starting to melt and the homeward trip was a tad more straight forward. Despite the weather, another £35 was raised in donations, taking this year's total over the £600 mark. Well done and thanks everybody.

This month's 100 club winner was Sally Corfield with Rod Crossman scooping second prize.



December coffee morning

Why not come along to the final coffee morning of the year to meet up with friends and exchange a Christmas card or two.

Hosted by Harley and Mary Jackson this promises to be a warm and welcoming morning where you can relax and take a few hours off before getting back to making mince pies and wrapping presents.

Young (sort of) Farmers

Recently we have been featuring some of the younger folk in the villages who are just starting out on various stages of their lives. We thought it would be a fun festive challenge for you to try and guess the identity of some of our young farmers of yesteryear. All have been photoshopped to black and white as my I-pad doesn't do sepia!! Answers on the back page.



(D) 



(A) 



(E) 



(B) 



(F) 



(C) 



(G) 



**East Down with Arlington
Carol Service**

Sunday 15th December 3.00 p.m.

Carols and Readings plus fabulous
entertainment in the form of Drama and
Music

Followed by

Bring and share mince pies and mulled
wine



Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve Due to the
lack of clergy to cover all the parishes Bratton
Fleming and Challacombe churches will host the
traditional midnight services.



**The Village Hall
Party times ahead?**

The village hall, it's car parking and equipment
are free most weekends. It is an excellent venue
and people have found it ideal for children's
parties and similar events. There is a minimal
charge and if it is a charity event that may be
waived. Please make any booking requests
through Ray Thomas on 02171 850464 or

ray@west-gate.co.uk

Newsletter

**THE
EXMOOR CAROLERS**

*100 Years Diamond
Carols to herald the
true spirit of Christmas*

**St James' Church
ARLINGTON** *2019
season*

**Sunday 8th December
at 3.00pm**

Tickets in advance from 01271 850598
(evening calls only please) Adults £7.50 children £3
PARKING on village street or in National Trust car park
(£3 for non NT members)

*To include Seasonal Refreshments.....wrap up warm
and please bring a torch!*

Contact Edward /Hazel Mather to reserve
a place Tel: 850598.

Reminder to the Blackmoor Gate Young Farmers
Club, the Christmas Whist Drive will be on
Thursday 5th December, 7.30pm start at East
Down Village Hall.



Family Fun Dog Show



To be held at the Calvert Trust,
Kentisbury on the 1st December 10.00 a.m.

Refreshments available.
For info contact Lucy 01271 850522.

IN AID OF DEVON AIR AMBULANCE.



December events in other parishes

Parracombe

**Parracombe Village Hall - Friday 6th
December 7.30 p.m.**

Benny&Kate Theatre Company present
CONSTELLATIONS by Nick Payne.

Do you know why it's impossible to lick the tips of your elbows?"
Scientist Marianne meets beekeeper Roland at a party. They hit it off and go out for a drink, or maybe they don't. Maybe they fall madly in love & get married. Or maybe they end up engaged to other people. Maybe they live happily ever after, or maybe they end up as total strangers.
Tickets £8. Bar. To book please call 01598 763455.

Information about all our events can be found on the Parracombe Community facebook page.

Shirwell

**Christmas Musical Evening Saturday 7th
December 7.00 p.m.** glass of Mulled Wine on arrival, Soup followed by Coffee and a Mince Pie £7.50 per person and a raffle. Please call Lynn Campbell on 01271 850175 to book.

Kentisbury



KENTISBURY GARDENING GROUP ALL WELCOME

An informal social gardening group for those who enjoy practical gardening and sharing gardening skills and ideas.

Wednesday 11th December, 12.30 – 3.00
Christmas Social and Planning Session
The Fox and Goose, Parracombe 2 course set lunch, cost around £10 (drinks extra)

Please confirm with me if you'll be coming along as the pub needs to know numbers. If there are 20 of us the pub will close for a private lunch for us. Please also let me know if you have any food allergies or specific requirements when you book with me (vegetarian, vegan, gluten free, dairy free, nut allergy etc)

This event is also a chance to look back to consider what we've enjoyed doing as well as looking forward and planning the future programme so please come along with your ideas, suggestions and offers to host or arrange visits.

For more information contact Jenny on 01271 883175 or jenny_burnett@outlook.com

Future events in East Down / Arlington

January Coffee morning

Advance notice that the January coffee morning will be held on 9th January and not on the 2nd January which would be the usual first Thursday in the month. Hopefully this will enable those recovering from a hectic Christmas and New Year to attend.

East Down Quiz Friday 17th January
More details in next months newsletter.

Future events in other parishes

Kentisbury Gardening Group



Wednesday 15th January 2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.

Tool Shed to be held at Kentisbury Village Hall or group member's workshop/garage.
Bring along your secateurs, spades, mattocks etc. for sharpening. If you have a block or grinder please bring them along.

Wednesday 12th February 2.00 p.m.– 4.00 p.m.

Garden Design Project. Seed ordering.
To be held at Little Ley



**The Pyne Arms
December Opening Times**

Monday Closed all day

Tues – Friday 12.00 noon to 3.00 p.m.
(food served noon to 2.30 p.m.)
5.00 p.m. to close
(food served 6.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.)

Saturday 12.00 noon to close
(food served noon to 2.30 p.m.)
(food served 6.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.)

Sunday 12.00 noon to close
(food served noon to 4.45 p.m.)

**Normal opening hours will apply per the above
until Saturday 21st December:**

Sunday 22nd December 12.00 noon to 10.30 p.m.
(food served noon to 6.30 p.m.)

Monday 23rd December normal hours apply

Christmas Eve 12.00 noon to 11.00 p.m.
(food served noon to 7.00 p.m.)

Christmas Day CLOSED

Boxing Day 12.00 noon to 5.00 p.m.
(food served noon to 3.00 p.m.)

New Years Eve normal hours apply

New Years Day 12.00 noon to 4.00 p.m.

See Facebook for any special events or changes to times. For further information, including menus, visit www.pynearms.co.uk

The road may be closed but we're not!

Reminder, the B3229 road from Kentisbury Mill to Easterclose Cross will be closed for approximately 10 weeks to repair the road surface.

Please note that during this period, the Post Office remains **VERY MUCH OPEN FOR BUSINESS AS USUAL** and would greatly appreciate your continued support.

Upcoming Events at the Pyne Arms



Christmas menu now available.

With a great choice of five starters, five main course and you guessed it five deserts, the delicious Christmas menu is now showing on their Facebook page. Guaranteed to be a wonderful warming Christmas event for your diary. Why not go on line and take a look?

QUIZ NIGHT!

Friday 27th December Supper is included and this promises to be a great night away from the awful Christmas telly, and a great way to catch up with friends!! Keep an eye on their Facebook page for price and more details.

Besshill Farm Shop
We are now taking orders for Christmas.

- Free Range Turkeys
- Free Range Ducks
- Free Range Geese
- Ribs of Beef
- Fillet Steak
- Gammons

Please call 01271 850311 for details.

Assistance for book purchase



The Sweetings Charity originates from a gift of Property to the parishes of East Down and Arlington by former Vicar Revd Trevelyan Sweeting. It uses grants to assist solely the organisations and residents of these two villages in charitable and religious activities and endeavours.

The Sweetings Charity at the recent AGM decided to offer youngsters from the villages of East Down and Arlington financial assistance to acquire books for study purposes.

Secretary James Stout is the man to contact
Telephone: [0271 850457](tel:0271850457).

East Down Parish Website

There is a lot of information about the village and its history, Parish Council information, details of footpaths and walks in the Parish, and much more on our website: www.eastdownparish.co.uk

100 Club

The 100 club is an excellent way of supporting the Village Hall so we can continue to maintain it in it's great condition. For an outlay of only £12 per year each number goes into a monthly draw. Prizes are £20 and £10 every month, January to November, and £40 and £20 in December. The draw usually takes place at the monthly coffee morning. The easiest way to pay is by direct debit. Forms are available in the Village Hall and should be returned to Rod, Alison or one of the trustees. Contact Rod on 850704

January newsletter

Please note, although the electronic version of the newsletter will be issued at the beginning of January, the printed version will be about a week later due to the Christmas period.

East Down Parish Council

ONE VACANCY FOR PARISH COUNCILLOR

Our meetings are held monthly in the evening starting at 7.30 p.m.

Newly co-opted members are required to complete a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

If you are interested in serving as a Parish Councillor please write to:
Mrs Margaret Done, Clerk/RFO, Granscott, East Down, Nr Barnstaple EX31 4LX

Qualification for Candidature

- Be a local government elector of the parish, or
- Have during the whole of the twelve months preceding the day on which he/she is nominated as a candidate occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish; or
- His/her principal or only place of work in the twelve months preceding the day on which he/she is nominated as a candidate have been in the area of the parish; or
- Have resided either in the parish or within 3 miles thereof during the whole of the 12 months preceding the day on which he/she is nominated as a candidate

Disqualification for Candidature

- Holding a paid office under the local authority;
- Bankruptcy;
- Having been sentenced to a term of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) of not less than three months, without the portion of a fine during the five years preceding the election; and
- Being disqualified under any enactment relating to corrupt or illegal practices

Signed  Clerk to East Down Parish Council

Who were those young farmers?

- A) Dennis Lerwill, B) Edward Mather,
C) Andrew Mather, D) Ian Cook,
E) Brian Smyth, F) Jim Mather,
G) Jamie Cook

