

Elmsted with Hastingleigh Community News

*St James the Great
Elmsted*



*St Mary the Virgin
Hastingleigh*

February 2018

40p

February

in Elmsted with Hastingleigh

THIS is my last edition as Editor of the *News*. I'm passing the baton back to Sue Boxall, whom I'm sure will, as she always did, do a fine job.

Thanks to those who have contributed to the magazine. Without your help these parishes would be a lesser place.

The Editor

- Regretfully, we announce that our Editor, Tony, is moving on (and away from the area) and this is his last edition.

Since he took over the editorship, Tony has invested passion and professional expertise in the magazine; using his journalism skills to transform its format and increase its content and contributors.

In his hands, the magazine has evolved, and we thank him for the lessons learned in that process.

We wish Tony and Sally good luck with their move and future projects. They will leave with our deepest gratitude and warmest good wishes!

Selina Farnfield

Chair of the Magazine Committee

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Submissions

The *Community News* takes no responsibility for misleading advertising or incorrect editorial supplied to us in good faith.

Please provide any promotional or editorial content in Word format rather than pdf. For length, grammar and style issues the Editor reserves the right to edit it.

Editorial: elmstedwithhastingleighnews@yahoo.co.uk

Advertising: shepandali@hotmail.com

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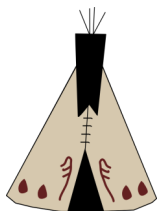
Most aspects of Household and Garden Maintenance

References available

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Hastingleigh with Elmsted Women's Institute

Minutes from last month's meeting

THIRTEEN members attended, and we also welcomed five guests. We discussed various items of business before David Harper talked about The Silk Road.

The Silk Road is a misnomer as it is actually a number of tracks, which cover rough and strenuous terrain. David spoke to us about a trip he had taken along one such road which covered an area between China and Russia.

The journey started at Chang'un (now known as Xi'an), passed through the Taklamakan desert, through Kashgar, up the Pamir Mountains to Kyrgyzstan.

The Silk Road was used by merchants to carry silk, sugar, spices, saffron and porcelain, to name a few. They were carried by camel and accompanied by heavily armed guards. David saw some amazing

sights along the route, including the terracotta army, which were originally in colour but upon opening the pits they were buried in, the colour oxidised.

It took 7,000 craftsmen to build the terracotta army and every face on the soldiers is different. He also spoke about the 1,000 Buddha Caves in Dunhuang.

Each cave was about the size of the village hall, twice as tall, and contained paintings and sculptures of Buddhas.

The trip passed through the Flaming Valley, so called because erosion of the red sandstone creates gullies and trenches that give a flame like appearance at certain times. He finished at Kashgar, a multi-cultural city.

- The Flower of the Month winner for the Year 2017 and the Competition Winner for the Year 2017 was Mrs Helmer.

The Flower of the Month winner for January was Mrs Phipps and the winner of the silk scarf competition was Mrs Homer.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday the 1st February at 7.30pm, in the Evington Hall, where we will be having a talk on where medicines come from.

Any new members will be made most welcome.

Marie Wenham



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Ramblings from the village walkers

Report of the New Year 'Mince Pie Walk'

WELL what a wet first day of the New Year, we were wondering if anyone would turn up for this village tradition.

Never fear this is Hastingleigh we are talking about! Twenty hearty souls – plus four dogs – braved the day. Perhaps it was the promise of mulled wine at the end?

We decided with the very damp conditions that we wouldn't be too adventurous so set off down the road turning right onto the track past the May Day field then up through Newlands Woods and over the Waltham Road and then onto Little Coombe.

It was here where it got pretty boggy – thanks to repeated four wheelers using the track for recreation. Eventually the path dropped downhill through the edge of Hurst Wood with the going much easier and then close to "Big Coombe" we

turned left along an easy path at the bottom of an open field, noticing a few new trees planted in recent years.

Then a gentle climb meeting for the first time two stiles, unfortunately not with very wide steps and of course pretty slippery too – OK for walkers but hard for dogs.

However, well prepared owners were able to lift them over but not after each one had deposited mud all over their jackets.

From then on it was plain sailing past Staple Lees and then on to the Wye road for a brisk return.

On reaching the hall we were welcomed with mulled wine and lots of mince pies, a lovely end to a very enjoyable morning.

Our thanks go to Yvonne & Janet who organised the refreshments and of course to everyone who brought along mince pies.

A great start to the year – don't

forget the second Sunday monthly walks, usually from The Evington Hall at 2pm.

**Derek
Harris**





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Letters to the Editor

This month there is a letter from a newer resident of this community. It was written following a chance meeting with the Editor. Having listened to their views about 'village life' the Editor promised anonymity and invited them to write to *the News*.

I HAVE read in this magazine, and seen at first-hand, how the same people (stalwarts) appear again and again in the same groups of organisers and committee members in this community. This is a credit to them and their community

UPDATE: Following a letter about the upkeep of Hastingleigh Pond and confusion over who is responsible for its upkeep the Editor contacted Kent County Council and learned that its registration lies with KCC but:

"As directed by the Chief Commons Commissioner... Hastingleigh Parish Council is hereby registered as the owner of the land comprised in this register." 12.11.75.

spirit. However, if things need fresh ideas and drive try to be open-minded.

In short, there is an attitude shown by some of the older residents that they 'have always done it a certain way and that way is the only way'.

The word often thrown around is 'clique' which is not necessarily a bad word. People who live and socialise together are, by their very nature, cliques.

The drawback with cliques is that once they are gone there is no one to step into their shoes if they do not open themselves up to new membership.

I am not the only person who has arrived in the past few years who has expressed this frustration.

A Villager

Register of TOWN AND VILLAGE GREENS

OWNERSHIP SECTION—Sheet No.

does not mean that land is re

1 No. and date of entry	2 No. and date of application	3 Name and Address of person registered as owner	4 Plan
1 12.11.75		As directed by the Chief Commons Commissioner in pursuance of Section 8(3) of the Commons Registration Act, 1965, Hastingleigh Parish Council is hereby registered as owner of the land comprised in this Register.	

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Tribute to a priest and loving twin

‘He looked for the best... and was great fun.’

Canon Paul Graham Cox: 1940–2017

MANY of you within Hastingsleigh and Elmsted and the locality will remember Canon Paul who lived at the vicarage in Hastingsleigh for seven years, 1990 – 1997, and who died on 5th November last year.

Paul came from a teaching background with his last post as Headmaster and Chaplain of St Michael’s School in Otford.

His lifetime of teaching was evident from the quality of his preaching throughout his time as the parish priest here and at Diocese level with the additional responsibilities for the training of non-stipendiary clergy and lay readers as well as at the parishes of Biddenden and Smarden where he was Rector from 1977 until his retirement in 2006.

Paul integrated well within the parishes of which he had care, very dutifully on arrival making initial contact with every household,

but notably here in his membership of the Evington players. At his funeral at Heathfield on November 24th his twin brother John, who also was ordained, spoke warmly and at times revealingly of his ‘younger’ brother; how ‘he delighted in things and in people. He looked for the best in the situation and was great fun’.

His closing words of his tribute were: ‘It has been great being a twin. We were part of each other.

‘I can’t think of being me without including him and it hurts to have that torn away.

‘But for me and I hope for all of you there are many, many happy memories and loads of stories to recount. There is a huge amount to be very, very grateful for.’

We hope that these words and the good wishes of many from us in this community will be a comfort at the time of the loss to Jenny, daughter Tamsin and all the family.

JH

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The Parish upon the Hills

Love Life Live Lent: Be The Change 2018.

"Forget the hair shirt and fasting. Turn off your computers and take time over eating cornflakes for Lent. Slow down and savour the good things!"

These were the headlines in the Daily Mail following the launch of the Church of England *Love Life Live Lent* (LLLL) initiative in 2013.

Maybe the catchy title doesn't grab you? But it seems that it's caught the attention of some who aren't attracted to traditional ways of marking Lent.

It's been said that the key to *living a good Lent* is to ask not just on Ash Wednesday but on every single day during Lent, *How much will I have changed when Easter Sunday dawns?* If you want to live a *good Lent*, live it deeply and savour life in all its fulness.

It's so easy to get side-tracked, pulled into watching that bit more telly or to spend that bit more time on the computer. When all we need to do is to make the decision to do something different, some good that we meant to do but haven't? The world whirls by at ever-increasing speeds.... we can go at such a speed that we

forget to savour the good things that we have.

LLLL offers 40 simple choices and actions for each day of Lent to *make the world a better place*. Each action is accompanied by a Bible verse and a thought on what it means to be a disciple today. The hope is that simple thoughts and actions lead to big changes? Here's some ideas -

Say hi to your neighbours to-day or when you next see them.

Try something new, for example a different food or a new experience.

Say thank you to God for one of your meals today.

Ask someone how they are and take time to listen to the answer.

Use the washing-up water to water some plants.

Take longer over breakfast; really taste your cornflakes (or whatever else you have!).

Sit still for five minutes and listen to your breathing.

Find something you don't use and give it away.

Learn the words of something by heart, for example a poem, prayer or song.

From previous page

Phone someone you love but haven't seen for a while.

The LLLL resources are for all ages and situations (families, young people, groups and individuals) and a weekly five-session Lent course can be run in conjunction or separately.

The reflections look at the Gospel of John and explore the gift of Jesus and the challenges these present in the context of daily life.

www.churchofengland.org/lent. If this isn't for you, Canterbury Diocese has provided a comprehensive guide to Lent 2018 resources.

Hopefully you'll find something that grabs your attention. Follow: www.canterburydiocese.org/media/lent/2018/resources.pdf

At least give something a go this Lent. Take hold of God's gift of life and live it to the full!

Linda

'So they do say...'

WITHIN the 14th-century wooden porch of St Mary's Church on the stone Church doorway, engraved initials can be seen using a torch held close to the supporting columns.

Who were they? Earlier initials on churches were usually of men who were off to a Crusade in the Holy Land and they made their mark so as to be remembered in this holy place by the priest, their family and friends.

Sometimes the engraver was a person travelling to a foreign land wishing to be remembered if something happened to them.

Most dated initials are regarded as a way of leaving a prayer, some having a cross as part of the engraving.

Occasionally, though, the engraver might write someone's name both upside down and backwards inside the church, regarded as a curse, and more powerful when found on a church wall.

On the stone doorway pillars of St Mary's, the following can clearly be seen:

EB 1700†; TW; (I?B) FB (EB?) 1616 ; THO CRUX 1653; (whose family was responsible for the building of the nearby barn; **TH 1568** (May 13 1568 was the Battle of Langside – Mary's flight to England and her imprisonment by Queen Elizabeth I).

On the pillars too are several carefully engraved circles within a larger circle in the form of a cross, a common device.

TW

Church services in the Parish Upon The Hills		
Feb 4	First Sunday	9:30 – Petham – Group service for Elmsted, Hastingleigh, Petham & Waltham
Feb 11	Second Sunday	8.00- Waltham – BCP Communion, 10.00 Bodsham School - Messy Church; 11.00- Petham - Communion
Feb 14	Ash Wednesday	10am, Hastingleigh church.
Feb 18	Third Sunday	9:30 Waltham Communion; 11:00 Hastingleigh Communion; 11:00 Petham Family Service (No Communion); 5pm Elmsted Choral Evensong
Feb 25	Fourth Sunday	9:30 Elmsted Communion; 11:00 Hastingleigh Communion 11:00 Petham Family Communion

This month's church flowers and cleaning volunteers:		
Feb 3 Feb 10	Mrs Bacon Mrs Geering Mrs Sharp Mrs Hill	Mrs McFarlane Mrs Hewson
Feb 17 Feb 24	Dr & Mrs Lawson Mrs Day	Mrs Wright Mrs Thrupp
Mar 3 Mar 10	Mrs Morris Mrs French	Mrs Jeffrey

<p>Priest-in-charge: The Rev Ravi Holy: The Vicarage, Wye 01233 812450 ravi.holy@wyebenefice.org.uk Associate priest: The Rev Lorraine Lawrence (with special responsibility for Hastingleigh, Elmsted, Petham, Waltham): The Vicarage, Hastingleigh, 01233 750987 or 07894 034409 lorraine_lawrence@btinternet.com. Churchwardens: Mrs Bacon 01233 750327, Mrs Ten Hove 01227 700460. United Wye Benefice 01233 813793 www.wyebenefice.org.uk</p>		
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7.00 for 7.30 Friday 23rd Feb
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www.mercyships.org.uk

Talk by Rev Thomas Collett White

**Explore the Poetry,
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Michelangelo**

7.00 for 7.30 Friday 16th March
Evington Village Hall Hastingleigh

Diary dates

Updates and more dates can be found at: www.evingtonhall.org.uk

February

1	Thurs	Art Group	09.30
1	Thurs	WI	19.30
6	Tue	Toddler Group	09.30
6	Tue	Library van	09.45
7	Wed	Coffee Morning	10.30
7	Wed	Community Choir	19.00
8	Thurs	Art Group	09.30
9	Fri	Whist Drive	19.00
11	Sun	Walkers meet	14.00
13	Tue	Hastingleigh PC	19.45
15	Thur	Art Group	09.30
17	Sat	ECP Film s	16.00 & 20.15
20	Tue	Toddler Group	09.30
20	Tue	Library van	09.45
20	Tue	Gardening Society	19.30
21	Wed	Community Choir	19.00
22	Thur	Art Group	09.30
27	Tue	Toddler Group	09.30
28	Wed	Community Choir	19.00

March

1	Thur	Art Group	09.30
1	Thu	WI meeting	19.30
5	Mon	ECP AGM & meet	19.30
6	Tue	Toddler Group	09.30
6	Tue	Library van	09.45

Thanks to all for fundraiser

THE Hall Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed to helping make the Christmas Bazaar a success.

The sum of £889, including donations, was raised to help with the upkeep of the hall and to keep the rents low.

Thanks are also due to Trevor Wye and his studio players who entertained us at the hall before supper (thanks to the cooks and kitchen help).

We raised £406 to be shared equally between the hall and the Guild of St John of Beverley for the deaf. **SB**

Shrove party

ALL are invited to celebrate Shrove Tuesday at the Evington Hall where we will be cooking pancakes, both savoury and sweet.

The event starts at 6pm and costs £2.50 for three pancakes. All proceeds will go towards the Church Urban Fund (Together Network) for food banks. For further enquiries call Roz Bacon on 750327.

ECP double film bill

EVINGTON Community Project presents a Double Film Show on Saturday 17th Feb at Evington Hall: **4pm - A Modern Animated Comedy Adventure. 8.15pm - A Modern Drama.**

The usual Fish & Chip van will be serving Fish & Chips, Sausage & Chips, etc. from 6pm. Coffee and Tea are provided but bring your own drinks.

To find out more and / or to make a reservation, please contact Robin Helmer on 01233 750236 or email: rob-in.helmer@btinternet.com.

Winter greens at Wye market

THE next dates for Wye Farmers' Market are Saturday 3rd February 9am to noon and Saturday 17th February 9am to noon.

Botterell's fish stall is returning to the market after the winter break with a delicious array of locally caught fish and seafood.

Meanwhile, Kale, Savoy cabbage, sprouts and spring greens are all full of flavour now and don't need to be boiled to death.

Money for St Mary's

THANKS you for all who attended the Christmas Carols on 21st December 2017. We raised £320 for the St Mary the Virgin Church toilets, Hastingleigh.

Thank you for your kind donations. Please contact us on 01233 750354 for enquiries www.thebowlonline.co.uk.

Mag subs

YOUR magazine subscriptions for the coming year are now due and will remain at £4.

100 Club

THE latest winning numbers for the Evington Community Project 100 club December draw are:

1 st Prize:	No. 98
2 nd Prize:	No: 49
3 rd Prize:	No: 23

The winning numbers for the additional Draw held at the Seasonal Thanks Morning are:

Star Prize 1	12
Star Prize 2	99
Star Prize 3	42

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Tapping into tales of water

WATER supply is very much in our minds at present due to South East Water installing water meters. But when was running fresh water first supplied to this area?

George Denny of High Lodge (Helchin) said that the stopcock in his garden had a lid with 1934 inscribed on it. Rob Briscall of Parsonage Farm confirms that he has two stopcocks inscribed with "M K W C 1933".

John Argar of Trinity Farm recalls being told that water was supplied to his farm in the 1940s, and as a young boy in the early 1950s, he helped his father dig a water supply trench to the bungalow next door.

John Wiseman when buying his Hill Street property remembers being told by Harry Archer, the previous owner, that a water supply to him was installed in about 1947 and John has a water easement of this date which confirms the water pipe's installation.

It has also been confirmed by the finding of an old stopcock in Upper Hill Street. The lid was inscribed

with "M K W C 1948". Harry Archer's daughter, Yvonne Helmer of Hastingleigh, writes, "I agree with the dates for the water supply. I have a very distant memory of the main water being installed at Hill Street Farm and the original iron hand pump at the side of the sink in the kitchen, which had brought water in from the well/underground tank just outside the kitchen window.

"The pump was removed when I was very young. It was essential for main water to be laid on to Hill Street Farm when my parents decided to have dairy cows.

It was needed to supply cold running water for rapid cooling of the milk from the cows before it was put in the churns to be collected by the dairy's lorry each day."

Yvonne further writes that she still has "the old cash book for Hill Street Farm dating from 1936 to 1968. In this there is an entry for Mid Kent Water Company, which is likely to be the bill for the connection of the water supply, which was paid on 11th March 1948 and was for the amount of £31.3s.6d.

"That is the first entry for Mid Kent Water Company and the entries for Water Rates for both Farm and House start from then but obviously for smaller amounts (£1.2s.6d. for the farm and 3s.6d. for the house being the first payments)."

John Argar said that the

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A boost for farms

different connection years of water supply to properties can be explained by people not being able to afford initially to pay for water at the time when the main water pipes were first laid.

But people soon realised the potential of it and it opened up new opportunities for farmers to invest and improve their business.

Up to then people collected water from the house gutters into above and below ground water tanks. These above ground tanks can still be seen today but the underground tanks are not always evident or known about.

During droughts, John's grandfather went with horse and barrel to get water from a spring at Stowting.

Ponds were important as a means of collecting water for animals and humans when it had been boiled. Our water comes from Kingston pumping station near Canterbury.

It is conveyed through a 12" strategic main service pipe running through the valleys from the Petham direction and serves villages up hill and down dale along the way to

Hastingleigh reservoir. Of course running water must have transformed lives. Fresh water on tap led to proper kitchen and bathroom facilities then central heating.

Farmers could lay a supply to animals in fields. Plumbers were needed. Goodbye to the privy down the garden though I expect some still exist to this day in rural areas but perhaps more a feature rather than a convenience.

John Argar said that an old saying was that the privy was too far away in the winter and too close in the summer.

It would be interesting to learn when running water was first supplied to Bodsham and Hastingleigh and of any issues with their supply over the years.

My thanks to George, the two Johns, Rob and Yvonne.

For more sanitary matters see **Toilets, earth closets, and house plumbing:** <https://tinyurl.com/yblbgva3>.

History enthusiast

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Rain now making up for past dry spells

Farming Notebook

THIS month we bring Farming Notebook, a monthly update from those who work the land hereabouts.

John and Elizabeth Wilson-Haffenden are first-generation farmers who both graduated from Wye College in 1978. Since then they have been farming at High Chimney Farm, Stelling Minnis.

Their farm is mainly arable, specialising in seed production (potatoes, wheat, beans and grass) as well as commercial production of barley and oilseed rape.

They also have a herd of single suckle cows for grazing pastures which are in Higher Level Stewardship, a scheme promoting environmentally beneficial management practices.

WE are already well into the new year and things are back to normal after the festive break.

2016 was a particularly dry year and as a result the water table has fallen to very low levels, wells are dry and reservoirs, which usually at this time of year are overflowing, remain only half full.

Nature always compensates, and it has been very wet of late so I am sure water reserves will soon start to improve.

This time last year we were enjoying cold frosty weather, and all the cows could spend the day out in the paddock enjoying the fresh air. Not so this year. It is very squelchy under foot.

I do not think the cows would choose to go out even if we left the gate open! They are not silly, and they are very comfortable on fresh straw in the barns.

The Minnis cattle that we have been looking after have now all calved. Six lovely, strong Sussex calves. Three boys and three girls. We only have the last cow here, and soon she and her

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Old tale of holly cure

calf will go to our neighbour at Fryarn Park to join the other mums and calves for the rest of the winter.

One of the new born calves is showing a couple of spots of ringworm. This shows as small circular patches of hair loss. It is not a serious ailment, and will sort itself out once the calf is outside in the sun.

There is an old wive's tale that says if you hang a bunch of holly in the barn the ringworm will disappear. I am a scientist and do not readily subscribe to muck and mystery potions.

But we are doing some coppicing and have cut some holly. So we will give it a go. If nothing else the barn will look festive! I will keep you posted...

This year we are a little short of hay and so have bought in 8000 litres of molasses. This we measure out and pour over the top of either a barley or oat straw bales.

We allow the thick liquid to soak in and then stand the bales

in feed rings in the barns. The cows love it. Apart from the feed value of the syrup it also makes sure the cows eat plenty of forage which is very good for their digestion.

We are also feeding some rolled barley meal to ensure a balanced diet. The barley is home grown. A mill and mix contractor is booked in to come and roll batches of four tonnes and mix them with minerals, oil, and soya meal to make a complete ration. Although calving is some way off, the cows look in good order.

Monitoring crops in store is a regular job. Not just to comply with the rules of Farm Assurance, but also to keep an eye on quality.

At our recent test of grain moistures one silo of oats registered a very slightly high moisture. Only 0.25% above what it should be, but enough to require 24 hours of conditioning.

This we achieve by turning on the drying fan and blowing air through the crop. Alongside the fan is a gas burner which has multiple flame settings.

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Take stock of spuds

enough heat to lower the RH to a level where it will dry the grain to the desired level.

As the temperature of the air increases the RH falls and the air is able to carry more water. The RH is set to 65% and this will result in the grain achieving the required moisture content of 14.5%.

The system has the advantage that you cannot overdry the crop which would reduce the saleable weight and as result income. And we would not want that.

We have done a stock take of our seed potatoes after the frenetic rush for deliveries before Christmas. Letting the people who market on our behalf know exactly what we have in stock increases the chances of selling everything, and not letting a customer down with a short order.

It is not a precise art but we can get close. Sales are slow at the moment due to a very big harvest nationally last year. Stores are still brim full and prices

are on the floor. For both reasons growers are reluctant to place orders for expensive seed. The orders will come and I know we will have more to grade at the end of the month.

It is a time for attending courses to build up our individual points tally for NRoSO or BASIS, both are professional registers which allow us to advise and use agrochemicals and also qualifies us to drive the sprayer.

Another course we are doing this year with our local training group is for the safe use of rodenticides and rat and mouse control. This is now a legal requirement.

All these winter pastimes will help us to be compliant when we have our farm assurance inspection some time next month.

My problem is that I do all these things and then forget to write them down! I wash the Land Rover. It is clean. So I have clearly washed it. But unless I write down that I have washed it, it is still dirty!! Ho hum...

Like the cows, I am happy being inside in the warm, but the sun has just shone through the cloud so I had better venture outside and do some work...

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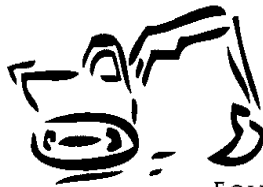
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Tips to beat blues

News from Wye Surgery

WHEN the holidays arrive, they are filled with family, fun, food, and happiness — but what happens when January rolls around?

Many people find themselves feeling sad and lonely. It's back to school, work, enduring the cold, and reverting back to normalcy.

It is known as the "January blues," and for many, the stress of dealing with them can take a toll on their mental, emotional, and even physical well-being. Take a look at some tips for beating January blues:

1. Identify The Reason For Your Blues The first step to any problem is to identify the source of it and understand where your sadness stems from, "being low in January is very common," says Carole Gaskell, author of *Transform Your Life*. "But rather than pushing your feelings to one side, allow yourself to acknowledge them so you can resolve them."

2. Budget All the Christmas adverts have probably tempted us to spend more than we should. Setting a spending limit, especially during the holidays helps to ensure when Jan 2018 comes around there will not be a hole in the bank account.

3. Get Enough Rest and Exercise Exercise, while good for our overall health, is especially important during stressful times, including during the holidays. Physical activity helps to increase the production of the brain's feel-good neurotransmitters, endorphins.

Sleeping adequately is also important because it gives the body a chance to rebuild from the stressful shopping trips and the holiday over-indulgence.

4. Get Outside It might be cold, but getting a few minutes of sun a day could improve your happiness substantially. There are several studies showing that sunlight markedly improves mood.

We feel better when the sun shines, even if it's cold. Sometimes a lack of sunlight can also lead to Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), the winter blues where sadness and mood changes are affected by the shorter days and lack of sun.

5. Take A Trip January is the perfect time to plan your next holiday. A study published in the journal "*Applied Research in Quality of Life*," showed that the largest boost in happiness comes from the simple act of planning a holiday.

The effect of holiday anticipation boosted happiness for eight weeks. So that should get us safely to the end of February and looking forward to Spring.

Penny Haynes

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Chocolate pancakes for sweet Shrove

**Here's another occasional recipe
from Kate Brazier of Petham**

FEBRUARY, with its dark days and miserable weather, has one redeeming feature, Shrove Tuesday, the day of the year for mandatory pancakes!

For chocoholics, these easy chocolate pancakes with ice cream and chocolate sauce are a welcome fix. Not only are they incredibly quick to make, but they can be re-heated if for some extraordinary reason they haven't all been eaten at once.

These are finished off with some chocolate caramel fudge sauce and a scoop of good vanilla ice cream.

Chocolate Pancakes

3 ½ oz/100g plain flour
1 tbsp cocoa
2 tbsp caster sugar
1 egg
½ pint of milk

Butter to fry
Put all of the ingredients

into a food processor/blender and whizz until thick and gloopy. Leave to stand for half an hour.

Heat a frying pan and put in a small lump of butter (1 tsp approx.). Melt it and get it sizzling but not burnt. Pour in the batter and swirl around the pan until it is evenly spread over the base (not too thick – use the first one as a test!).

Cook until it is beginning to brown underneath. Turn the pancake over, tossing if you are feeling adventurous, otherwise using a spatula. Cook on the other side. Put onto a plate and repeat the process.

This quantity will make 16 8"/20cm pancakes. Serve with ice cream and chocolate sauce, dusted with icing sugar!

For more fabulous recipes, go to <https://katespuddings.blogspot.com>

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