

Elmsted with Hastingleigh Community News

*St James the Great
Elmsted*



*St Mary the Virgin
Hastingleigh*

February 2019

40p



Elmsted and Hastingleigh Community Contacts

Elmsted Parish Council

Tracey Block 01233 750415

Hastingleigh Parish Council

Tracey Block 01233 750415

Evington Hall (Bookings)
(www.evingtonhall.org.uk)

Shelley 07401 908249
bookings@evingtonhall.org.uk

Evington Hall Committee Hon Sec

Mrs H French 01233 750483

ECP Hon Sec

Mrs S Boxall 01233 750206

Evington Gardeners Hon Sec

Mrs H Ransley 01233 720152

Evington Community Choir

Mrs C Jeffery 01233 750585

Art Group

Mrs V Kerry 01227 700843

Footpath Walks

Mr D Harris 01233 813711

Women's Institute

Mrs J Bowes 01233 811875

Parent and Toddler Group

Mrs L Lawrence 01233 750987

Neighbourhood Watch Hastingleigh

Mr G Block 01233 750415

Neighbourhood Watch Elmsted

Mr J Argar 01233 750311



February

in Elmsted with Hastingleigh

Winter is upon us, although there are small signs of Spring approaching; bulbs sprouting, snowdrops blooming. As I sit and write this, we have had our first hard frost of the year, bringing with it beautiful photo opportunities, and the promise of colder weather to come. Don't miss the Film Night and fish and chip supper on the 9th (p23). Donations are being requested for Easter flowers (p21) and new toys for the Toddler Group (p15), please give generously if you can. Sadly, we have recently lost a much loved member of the community, there is a lovely piece on page 17, and we send our condolences to her family. As always letters, articles and comments are very welcome.

Subscriptions Due

Please return your subscription in the envelope enclosed to your magazine distributor. Thank you.

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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

Secretary: secretary.communitynews@gmail.com

Or write to: The Secretary, 1 Bowl Field, Hastingleigh, TN25 5HT.

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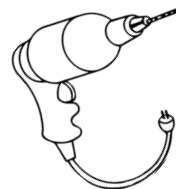
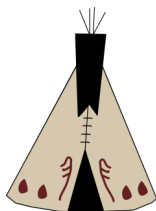
Most aspects of Household and Garden Maintenance

References available

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Hastingleigh with Elmsted Women's Institute

Kent through the seasons

Hastingleigh with Elmsted W.I. met on Thursday the 3rd of January 2019 at the Evington Hall.

19 members attended, and we also welcomed 1 guest. We discussed various items of business before our speaker, Mr Chris Wade, gave us a talk on Kent in Four Seasons. Mr Wade works for KCC looking after Public Rights of Way and showed us many photographs of Kent, taken throughout the four seasons. He spoke about how up keep of the public ways are often a partnership between the council and the landowners, particularly in countryside areas such as Kent, which are still heavily farmed. Farmers have 14 days, or as soon as possible after, to replace/remark rights of ways across farm land during ploughing time. Kent has a few green sunken lanes, old 'highways' that were used by horse

and cart before the era of motor vehicles. Many of these in Kent no longer exist as they were surfaced to allow for easier movement of troops. Kent boasts so much to enjoy outdoors, from woodlands to sea air, downs to historical monuments, and meandering streams followed by way paths. Swaths of colour can be enjoyed in the spring to summer months; carpets of blue bluebells, yellow primroses growing in the wild, fields turned yellow with oil seed rape, and then the rare sight of fields of red poppies. Mr Wade finished his talk with the saying 'Leave nothing but footprints, take nothing but pictures, keep nothing but memories and kill nothing but time'.

The Flower of the Month winner for the Year 2018 was Jean Bowes and the Competition Winner for the Year 2018 was Barbara George. The Flower of the Month winner for January was Sara Nixon and the winner of the January competition, a Photo of a Kent View, was Yvonne Helmer.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday the 7th February at 7.30 p.m., in the Evington Hall, where we will be having a talk on the real Mr Selfridge and the history of shopping.

Any new members will be made most welcome.

Marie Wenham

theWI
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In The Garden

Odd mix of soils

We Downland folk are blessed to be living in an area of outstanding natural beauty with its hills and valleys and glorious views. Visitors come just because of this, but those of us living here might, after a while, start to take it for granted, which we shouldn't.

In gardening terms we need to take account of what lies beneath our feet. That's easy you might say; chalk. Yes, that's true, billions upon billions of the stuff that comes, millions of years ago from a watery environment that geological movement has thrown up some 175 metres above sea level.

It would be reasonable to assume that our garden soils are, chalky, alkaline. In soil terms on the pH scale of acidity versus alkalinity 7 is the neutral point and chalky soils are going to be higher than that – 7.5 or so when to be able to grow happily a lot of plants would like something just slightly acid, 6.5 say.

But our situation is far more complicated than this. We live

among an odd mix of soils. Curiously the highest parts of Hastingleigh and Elmsted have a capping over the chalk of more gritty, sandy soil; a plateau drift that comes from elsewhere. Untended this is acid, alarmingly so and can be as low as 4.5 pH. Ouch! Here, a lot of our garden plants will start to sing merrily with the application of some lime or calcified seaweed. And the soils can change rapidly. As you move away from the tops the chalk is nearer the surface and the soil is alkaline on the slopes very near the surface and easily visible. In the bottoms of the Coombe valleys more fertile, deeper soil is present but still with an alkaline tendency.

But, you say, I've got flints, I've got sticky clay. You might well have for there are pockets of clay that can be really difficult to dig and work. So we have got a bit of everything hereabouts. What to do? If you are not sure what you have got and want to know, a cheap soil testing kit from a garden centre will soon let you know.

If you are on the tops camellias, azaleas, rhododendrons, daffodils and nasturtiums will love you, but even these guys may find a pH of 4.5 a bit much! In your chalky garden you may dig scabby potatoes – still good for eating and, dare I say, home grown always tastes best.

It's always easier to deal with the acid soils by adding lime. Not so to make an alkaline soli suitable for



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In The Garden cont.

those acid loving flowers. Overall I would always recommend adding organic matter. It has an ameliorating quality and is good for all soils and soil life. If you are on some of that sticky clay and feel a bit desperate some sulphur or iron sulphate may help and also open the clay up somewhat. 200g per square metre would be a good start applied during the warmer months.

Fred



‘So they do say...!’

Amongst church inscriptions in Elmsted and Hastingleigh Churches, the following was noted by the Reverend Bryan Fosset during a local survey in 1757:-

‘An Inscription on a Picture at Evington, in Elmsted, The Ancient Seat of The Family of The Honeywoods, and now ye Residence of Sr. John HONEYWOOD, Bart. :- Mary WATERS, Daughter & Coheir of Robert Waters, of Lenham in Kent, Wife of Robert Honeywood, of Charing in The said Countie Esq. There lawfully descended from Her, 367 Children; 16 of her own

Bodie; 114 Grand Children; 228 in The 3d. Generation; and 9 in The Fourth. She led a most Pious Life; and, in a most Christian Manner died at Marke’s Hall in Essex, in the 93d. Year of her Age. And 44 of her Widowhood. viz: 10 May An.Dom. 1620).’

Where is that picture now?

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Parish Upon The Hills

Happy New Year

It would be remiss to begin this with anything other than a greeting wishing, hoping and praying that everybody would, could and should have a new year that is good in whatever way they need it to be. However, for some of us that may not be possible, and to them I send my prayers, that next year may bring comfort and support.

When we come out of the festivities of Christmas, it can be very easy to feel a bit flat or down. There is nothing to look forward to but several months of dark gloomy days, rotten weather and cold, with the threat (or promise) of snow looming.

Spring feels a long way off and the house can feel empty and cold! So what do we do about this? Do we revel in the

misery, struggle through the despair, count off days like a prisoner, ticking off their sentence on the wall, OR, do we try to find a better way?

Now this is the bit where you all groan and think (or yell) PLEASE DONT TELL ME GOD OR JESUS IS THE ANSWER?

And, I have to admit I do know some Christians who would leap in with exactly that line about now, but you'll be pleased to know I'm not going to.

I want to suggest a practical suggestion.

In my time as a priest in a large town, much of our time was taken up with something called, Pastoral Visiting. This is basically popping in on people who are ill or down or in some sort of need, to chat, be of practical help and generally make sure they are alright. Whereas here, one of the things I have noticed, loved, and appreciated is how everyone looks after everyone else so well. Most of the time, I don't even get told if someone is in need of a visit, because some wonderful friend or neighbour will already have been and done what needs doing. In town, most people don't even know who their neighbour is!! You all do a wonderful job of making people feel loved and cared for,

9

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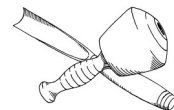
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Parish Upon The Hills Cont.

welcome new comers and generally take care of each other. In other words, you're brilliant. So my suggestion for those who don't relish the new year's coming is, do more of that. Find a neighbour or friend who feels the same and help each other through together. Find a project or hobby or any common ground and share that. Maybe consider

eating together occasionally or cooking for each other. Maybe find a new club or group and join together.

Jesus said one of the two greatest commandments is to *"Love your neighbour as yourself"* and you are all so good at that already your closer to God than you think.

And, if life is really bad just now, and you don't even love yourself very much, maybe, by finding the strength to love a neighbour you may discover that you can love yourself.

A Happy and a loving/loved New Year to you all.

Evington Community Group

The 2019 AGM of Evington Community Project will be held on Monday 4th March at 7.30pm in Evington Village Hall.

We are a small group who organise events for the community throughout the year ie. Film Nights, craft events, London trips etc. all funded through the Spring Fair and the 100 Club.

If you would be interested in joining us or are interested to hear about what we do, please come along to our AGM.

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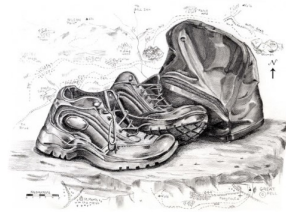
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Footpath Group



The Mince Pie Walk New Year's Day

At last the first fine New Year's Day for several years.

We had a lovely group of 22 adults, five children and five dogs. At one point I thought the animals were going to outnumber the children!

So with lots of dogs we did our best to find a walk without stiles. Taking off down Tamley lane we soon took the footpath across the fields to the Waltham Road cross roads and then took the road south towards New Barn Hill.

Here we then turned east onto the North Downs Way towards Cold Blow. Plenty of time to admire the view and reminisce about the many owners especially Mike and Jean Bowes who farmed there for many years. Turning back for home we took the lane across the Wye Road to Folly town and past Staple Lees. The natural return across the fields and back down the track

past the football ground and onto the hall where there was a plentiful supply of Mulled wine and mince pies! The dogs were delighted to just have five kissing gates to negotiate!

A lovely New Year's Day walk with friends old and new – excellent.

Our thanks go to Janet & Robin who organised the refreshments and of course to everyone who brought along mince pies and sausage rolls!

A great start to the year – don't forget the second Sunday monthly walks, normally from Evington Hall at 2.00pm, all Welcome.

In February we will meet at the hall as usual and then share cars for a walk round Godinton Park led by Hilary.

Derek Harris

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Hastingleigh Toddler Group

Request for Donations

Hastingleigh Toddler Group is your local toddler group, run by volunteers for children up to 4-5 years of age. We have a number of different toys for the children to play with but as is to be expected some of these are starting to wear with use and we would like to introduce some new toys.

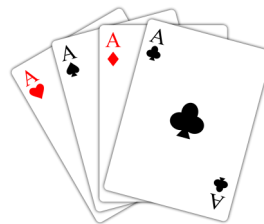
We are making a shop to introduce a new element to the imaginary food play. As such we are asking for donations to enable us to introduce different items to the kitchen that are new and exciting. This will include items such as pretend tins of food (already made), whole wooden food such as fruit and vegetables, a set of scales (already purchased) and shopping bags (already purchased).

In order to achieve this, we are asking for donations to allow for the purchase of new items for the shop. All donations gratefully

received no matter the size, as every little helps. If you would rather purchase an actual item rather than give money, then let us know and we can give you a link to the toys we are looking at.

Donations can be given to Marie Wenham at 1 Bowlfield, Hastingleigh.

Thank you in advance.
Hastingleigh Toddler Group.



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Peggy Hewes

1932 - 2019

Peggy and John came to Hastingleigh in 1984, when John was appointed priest in charge of Elmsted, Hastingleigh, Crundale and Godmersham and have been very much part of Hastingleigh except from years 1989 - 1995 when they lived in Lydd where John was Rector and Rural Dean.

Peggy had always known John wanted to be in the church but it was only after going to Bermuda and living in Nigeria as a married couple and John working for Unilever/PPL for 25 years, that John supported by Peggy, went to college and became priested.

They had lived in Saltwood and Shepherdswell before coming to Hastingleigh and Peggy taught in the state system, set up a school for graduate Germans Studying English and for 17 years taught geography and English at the girls prep school Sibton Park in Lyminge.

On retiring in 1993 Peggy became very involved with helping

with her grandchildren growing up in London and helping many in the village especially Mrs Newick.

Family has always been important to Peggy, who although an only child had many cousins. Her mother Marjorie (Wilma), was one of six. Jonathan, Paul, Debbie and Patrick have been part of a very close family along with all the grandchildren.

Peggy also worked in the Citizens Advice Bureau in Ashford for a number of years and in the village helped fund raise for St. John of Beverley for the Deaf, ran the monthly village coffee mornings for years and helped clean and arrange flowers in the church.

Peggy and John loved their holidays and it was fantastic that they had such a good cruise to the Canaries before Peggy's last fall.

We shall all miss her lovely smile and calm, wonderful approach to life.

RIP dear friend.

RB



Church services in the Parish Upon The Hills

03/02	First Sunday	10.30 - Hastingleigh - Benefice service. A special 90th birthday service to celebrate the ministry of Rev. John Hewes. All Welcome.
10/02	Second Sunday	08.00 - Waltham - BCP Communion 10.00 - Bodsham School - Messy Church 11.00 - Petham - Communion
17/02	Third Sunday	09.30 - Waltham - Communion 11.00 - Hastingleigh - BCP Communion 11.00 - Petham - Family Service (no communion) 17.00 - Elmsted - Choral Evensong
24/02	Fourth Sunday	09.30 - Petham - New Family Communion 11.00 - Hastingleigh - Communion

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 R Doyle 01227 700296. **United Wye Benefice** 01233 813793 www.wyebenefice.org.uk

This month's church flowers and cleaning volunteers:

	St Mary's	St James'
Feb 2nd	Mrs Morris	Mrs Jeffrey
Feb 9th	Mrs French	
Feb 16th	Dr & Mrs Lawson	Mrs Healy
Feb 23rd		Mrs Denny
Mar 2nd	Mrs Boxall	Mrs Gregory
Mar 9th	Mrs Pell	Mrs Pay

Diary Dates - February

Tues	5th	Toddlers	09.30 - 12.00
		Library Van	09.45 - 10.10
Wed	6th	Coffee Morning	10.30 - 11.30
		Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00
Thurs	7th	W.I. Meeting	19.30 - 22.00
Fri	8th	Whist Drive	19.00 - 22.00
Sat	9th	ECP Film Night	15.30 - 23.00
Sun	10th	Footpath Group	14.00
Tues	12th	Toddlers	09.30 - 12.00
Weds	13th	Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00
Tues	19th	Evington Gardeners	19.30 - 22.00
		Library Van	09.45 - 10.10
Fri	22nd	W.I. Workshop	10.00 - 13.00
Tues	26th	Toddler Group	09.30 - 12.00
Weds	27th	Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00

The above dates are taken from the Evington Hall website calendar
(www.evingtonhall.org.uk)

Evington Hall Committee

The Christmas Bazaar held at the end of November was again a huge success raising £930 for hall funds.

A big thank you to the helpers, donors of gifts for the stalls and to the support of the community who came on the day.

Thanks are also due to Trevor Wye and his Studio Players who entertained us before an enjoyable supper: always a welcome prelude to the Christmas season.

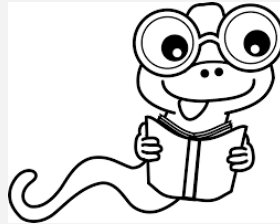
This event raised £360 shared equally between the village hall and St Mary's Hastingleigh.

SB



Club Draw

The next draw will be on
Wednesday 6th February at
the coffee morning.



Library Van

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parked in the village hall
carpark on Tuesday 5th and
Tuesday 19th February 09.45 -
10.10.

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Benefice Service February 3rd

St. Mary The Virgin, Hastingleigh. 10.30am

This service at which Rev John Hewes will be officiating
for the last time will be followed by lunch in
Evington Hall (Hastingleigh).

If you would like to join John, please let me know
by **1st February**. roz.bacon@btinternet.com or
01233 750327

Leave your name/names please so I know who is coming.

Easter Flowers

Anyone wishing to donate money for Easter flowers
for St. Mary's church, Hastingleigh please contact
Jean Bowes 01233 811875

Hastingleigh Parish Council

As part of the Local Plan 2030, Ashford Borough Council
has approached Hastingleigh Parish Council in order
to consult on the defined Village Confines in order to
understand where development may be allowed.

If you would like to know more about this,
please look at the website:

www.hastingleighpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

At the Timber Batts

Raging Against the Machine 9th February
Adamski 16th February

Found

On 2nd January, 3 dog leads were found on the road to Wye
outside Vigo Farm.
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8.15 pm - A Modern Musical

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Due to restrictions imposed by our licence we are not allowed to advertise the name of the films in the Community News.

Our usual Fish & Chip van will be serving Fish & Chips, Sausage & Chips, etc. from 6.00 pm. Coffee and Tea will be provided but please bring your own drinks.

To find out more and/or to make a reservation, please contact Robin Helmer
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Wye PPG

NHS long term plan

The NHS is working on a plan setting out ambitions for improvement over the next decade, and how it will meet those ambitions over the five years of the recently announced funding settlement. Last Autumn a series of public meetings were held to hear the views of the local population.

Caroline Abrahams, charity director of Age UK and co-leader of the working group looking at integrated and personalised care for older people on the NHS Long Term Plan shares her thoughts about how we can support people to delay the onset of serious health problems and reduce their impact.

“It’s great that we are living longer but the bad news is that many of us spend our latter years coping with ill-health and associated care needs. We also have increasing numbers of people living with long term conditions and frailty, putting them at risk of repeated hospital admissions which can undermine their capacity to live independently and well. Time and time again studies have shown that most people want to live well at home, on their own terms, for as long as possible, so what can we do to

make that the reality for more of us?

This is what the work stream I am co-leading is ultimately all about. It is based on the premise that we should be doing more to support people living with long term conditions to experience personalised and integrated care; and in particular, from midlife onwards, delay the onset of serious health problems and reduce their impact. This would give everyone a more effective, more joined up and a more personalised service than they often receive at present. The NHS must play the central role in this, of course, but it can’t do it all on its own: Social care is often crucial and the voluntary sector has a potential contribution to make as well. Nor should we forget about the families and informal carers who are holding many of these situations together.

At its simplest we think the future lies in more multi-disciplinary teams operating in the community, properly linked in with GPs as well as hospitals, so that people with long term conditions and frailty get the right support, at the right time. This happens in some places already but we need to ensure that in ten years’ time it happens everywhere – a big challenge for sure, but also an incredibly exciting opportunity and one we cannot afford not to take.”

There will be further local consultation meetings later in the year so that we can give our views.

Penny Haynes Chair Wye Surgery PPG

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Farming Notebook

Plough Sunday

The Sunday after Epiphany (celebrating the visit of the three wise men to the stable in Bethlehem) is known as Plough Sunday.

This is a traditional English celebration of the beginning of the agricultural year. Farmers would bring a plough share to church and ask for a blessing on it and the land. In some parishes farmers bring their tractors to church with ploughs attached. Work in the fields would not begin until after this service. In modern times the beginning of the farming year is commonly recognised as Michaelmas, the 29th September. Autumn sown crops make up an important part of farm rotations and this date seems very appropriate as it marks the start of a new cropping cycle.

However, Plough Sunday does seem very well timed for us this year. We managed to plough most of the ground destined for spring cropping quite early. But with delays in hedge cutting, and a prolonged period of rain and generally wet and miserable weather, there is still some ground in need of turning over. If this cold dry

period hangs on for a few more days we shall start again on "Plough Monday".

Already the early ploughed land is weathering nicely and will provide lovely seedbeds for the spring sown beans, oats and potatoes. Only one ploughed field is showing any sign of germinating weeds and grasses, and this is the field on which the variety trials were demonstrated. All the pathways cut through the growing crop last summer are quite clearly visible. We will wait a few weeks, allowing as many grass weeds as possible to germinate, and then spray them off.

Soon the beans, and oats, both seed crops, will start to be delivered to Dennes for dressing and bagging ready for the spring planting season.

Potato orders have been slower than usual so far. Sales have been secured, but for much later deliveries. This has given us the opportunity to run the crop over the grader, not only to size the sample but also to tidy up the tubers that have succumbed to soft rot since harvest. The 2018 season for the potatoes was very challenging. Little or no rainfall until late into the autumn. Mother tubers (the seed that we planted) breaking down to soft rot at harvest time, and worst of all secondary growth. A tuber that starts to grow another

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Farming Notebook cont.

tuber late in the season is known as a “dolly” for very obvious reasons. To limit the amount of secondary growth we lifted the whole crop into store as quickly as possible. So, now all of the crop has to go over the grader again to remove the over and undersize tubers. At the same time we remove any damaged or rotten tubers as well as any stone and soil that evaded detection at harvest.

As with every aspect of the farm, we undertake an annual review. In the thirty years that we have been growing potatoes, 2018 was the most challenging. We looked long and hard at the enterprise, with every option on the table. One partner made a very telling comment at the beginning of the meeting. “Any product that we produce that has a domestic market for over 95% of the crop will be very valuable in the months and years to come. Particularly with the uncertainty of Brexit”. Practically everything else we produce relies on markets based in Europe. From that point on we focussed on 2019 and beyond...

We have started calving. All the Minnis cattle are up here at the farm for the winter and in a pen

with a couple of our bigger heifers. So far one heifer and four of the five Minnis cattle have calved. All are doing well. The last cow certainly looks heavy in calf, but shows no sign of calving. As a herd of cows often synchronises their oestrus naturally, we may have to wait another cycle for the next calf. It could still be a couple of weeks off...

There is not much field work to be done. Just the odd bit of spraying on the wheat and rape to tidy up any weeds or early signs of disease. Chasing the contractor to come and finish the hedge cutting around the grass fields now that it is a bit dryer underfoot is becoming a priority. The window for hedge cutting closes at the end of February-not long...

And we need to finish the ploughing with our newly blessed plough!

W Wilson-Haffenden





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