

# Elmsted with Hastingleigh Community News



September 2021 40p



# Elmsted and Hastingleigh Community Contacts

Elmsted Parish Council  
[www.elmstedpc.org.uk](http://www.elmstedpc.org.uk)

Hastingleigh Parish Council  
[www.hastingleighpc.org.uk](http://www.hastingleighpc.org.uk)

Evington Hall (Bookings)  
([www.evingtonhall.org.uk](http://www.evingtonhall.org.uk))

Evington Hall Committee Hon Sec

ECP Hon Sec

Evington Gardeners Hon Sec

Evington Community Choir

Footpath Walks

**Mrs H Ransley** 01233 750949

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

**Tracey Block** 01233 750415  
[clerk.elmstedpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.elmstedpc@gmail.com)

**Tracey Block** 01233 750415  
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**Mrs H French** 01233 750483

**Mrs S Boxall** 01233 750206

**Mrs H Ransley** 01233 750949

**Mrs C Jeffery** 01233 750585



# September

## in Elmsted with Hastingleigh

**A**fter many months, I'm finally able to put the 'Dates for Your Diary' back into the magazine. It finally feels as though life is getting back to normal with the Coffee Mornings, WI and Community Choir restarting in the hall.

The front cover photograph was sent in from Elmsted Court Farm. Let's hope the weather cheers up so the farmers can get their harvest safely in.

I've been given a couple of old postcards and photographs of Hastingleigh which can be seen in the centre pages. If you have any other old photos you would like to share, please email a copy to me.

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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.

Editor: [elmstedwithhastingleighnews@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elmstedwithhastingleighnews@yahoo.co.uk)  
Advertising: [advertising.communitynews@gmail.com](mailto:advertising.communitynews@gmail.com)  
Secretary: [secretary.communitynews@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.communitynews@gmail.com)  
Or write to: The Secretary, 1 Bowl Field, Hastingleigh, TN25 5HT.

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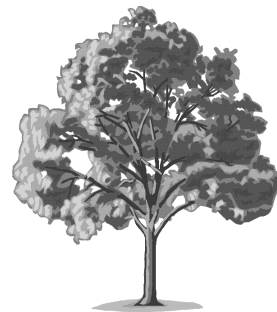
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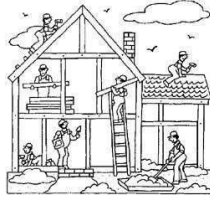
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*Fencing - boundaries - minor electrical - decorating - guttering*

*small projects - large projects - emergencies*

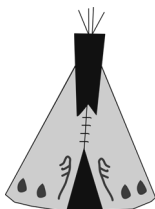
**Most aspects of Household and Garden Maintenance**

*References available*

*Also*

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Paul 07940983052 [paul\\_s\\_harris@sky.com](mailto:paul_s_harris@sky.com)

## **WYE PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC**

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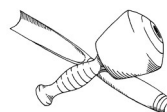
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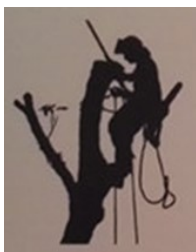
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# In The Garden

**M**any may argue that September is the start of the gardening year. If we have managed to avoid the heat waves, wild fires, droughts and floods that have afflicted so many other parts of the world and even other parts of the UK, then generally the weather is sliding into autumn and an 'Indian summer' may bless us with steady warm days before the first frosts start to nip our toes and fingers.

Harvesting autumn raspberries from canes that have grown from the ground up since spring can be a particular pleasure together with the smell of ripening apples on the bough, although this year the curious spring has brought a mixed bag to our few apple trees. Our Bramley apple 'on which we rely for unsurpassed cookers' has hardly any fruit this time for when it was flowering the pollinators were hardly to be seen the weather was so cold. On the other hand the wild crabs have, somehow, plenty of fruit.

Now is a good time to plant spring flowering bulbs. A head start can be made with crocuses, daffodils, hyacinth, scillas and winter aconites. Tulips are better left until October or even November. The approach of autumn can bring with it a second flowering. Albeit intermittently, of a number of the shrubs whose main flowering period is much earlier in the year. Of these, many of the roses may be relied upon to provide a second flush of bloom, often going on right into winter. Late clematis prolong the season and may be employed to enliven shrubs and trees that no longer command centre stage.

Sow annuals for spring. Very hardy annuals sown now will flower much earlier than those sown in the spring. Sown in trays of modules under glass and then potted on they can be kept in a cold greenhouse or frame and set out in beds as soon as the worst of the weather is over in the early spring.

The last of the main crop potatoes should be dug up for storage before the slugs home in on them and increase their damage. Hands up those who have never left behind rogue tubers that cheekily pop up in the spring to infuriate you when you swear you dug the beds

three times to prevent just such a happening!

If you net brassicas to keep pigeons and cabbage white butterflies from attacking them (mesh no bigger than 7mm to keep the latter out), these should be changed for wider meshed nets that will still keep the pigeons out but let any snow that falls in the winter filter through and not catch on the nets and damage them by weighing them down. Likewise for the roof nets of fruit cages which should be removed.

Greenhouses and cold frames can be cleaned out and, if necessary, fumigated to rid them of bugs to give a clean start for late autumn and winter cropping with endive and herbs such as chervil, coriander and wild rocket to enhance your salads.

With a good September, delicious sweet corn can be harvested and ripening squashes can be lifted clear of the ground with a piece of wood or a small branch so they are clear of any wet soil as they fully ripen for storage.

Fred

# Evington Community Project CLUB

The winning numbers for the August 2021 Draw are:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: No. 66

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: No: 32

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: No: 80

Many thanks to all of the 100+ Club Members for your support.

The money raised by the 100 Club allows events like the Film Nights to take place and in 2020/2021 paid for a community Zoom Licence to allow the coffee mornings to take place virtually more frequently and other village organisations to meet virtually too.

# Hastingleigh with Elmsted W.I.

## Meeting Back in the Hall

**B**y the time you read this, we should either be preparing for our first meeting back, or we will have just had it. It seems like a lifetime ago that we last met - it was a torrentially rainy night in March, and we were fully expecting to meet again the following month. I'd just come back from India where I'd been on a cruise with my Mum. The authorities in Mumbai cut our visit by 12 hours as one of the crew had flu symptoms, and India didn't want to take a risk with us. Thankfully the crew member didn't have Covid, but after the ship got back to the U.K. she laid up in Rosyth for a year with several other ships as the cruise industry collapsed.

I'm only telling you this as it feels such a long time ago, and our lives have been ticking over in so many different ways since then.

We will be back on Thursday 2nd September. It won't be a long meeting. We'll be seeing our friends again, 'some of whom we haven't seen for more than a year', discussing some matters of business, and talking about our meetings for the rest of the year and how we may deal with them differently. The Hall and our meetings will of course be Covid compliant, working to the latest guidelines.

We would love to see you if you have ever thought about joining us, but could I suggest you come to our meeting in October, rather than our first one back? We'll have one of our favourite speakers talking to us then, and things should be back to being relatively normal. Please feel free to call me on 01303 271735 if you have any questions about possibly joining.

Fiona Steward

# Evington Community Choir



**A**fter a long break our local singing group will resume on Wednesday, 15th September in a new time slot of 10.30 to 12noon at Evington Hall, Hastingleigh. As most people know, the coffee morning takes place on the first Wednesday of the month, and the singing will now occupy the other Wednesday mornings.

The group will be purely a community effort as it will no longer be organised by the charity Living Lively, and this means that there will be no need for a term-by-term financial commitment. A £2 on the day contribution to running costs will cover the expenses and hall hire.

The content is usually a range of songs from very new to very old, with lots of well-known tunes. There will be challenges along the way, but we all need to get back into singing gently after such a long break so nobody should be afraid of it being too hard, and we do have a rest and a cuppa in the middle! Hopefully the new time slot will entice some brand-new participants to come along and have a go, and join in the fun. Anybody who thinks they can't sing is particularly welcome: there is safety in a group to find your voice and experience the joy of expressing yourself in this unique way. Singing in groups has been studied a lot in the last few years and it has been shown every time, to help breathing and general health, and has a huge effect on mental well-being, so it may be just the tonic you are looking for...

The village hall is large and airy, and complies with all the Covid safety requirements, and we will adhere to the current advice on safe singing inside at the time we start.

Please just turn up, or if you have any questions please feel free to contact me on 01233 750585.

Celia Jeffery



# Road Closures

**W**e seem to be experiencing many road closures in and around our area at the moment.

If you want to keep up to date with road works around the neighbourhood, look on the website [www.one.network](http://www.one.network) where you can see what is happening on the day and if you login to the site you can look weeks in advance.

Hinxhill Road will be closed from 2nd September for 2 weeks.



## Library Van

The mobile library van will be at the hall on  
**Tuesday 31st August,**  
**14th (TBC) & 28th September**  
09.45 - 10.15

## Village Coffee Morning

Come and join us for coffee, tea and a biscuit along with a chat and good company.

3rd Wednesday every month, Waltham Hall,  
4th Wednesday every month, Petham Hall Foyer.  
Starts 10.30

# Pictures of the Past



Church & Court Lodge, Hastingsleigh 1961



The Street, Hastingsleigh

The Street, Hastingsleigh



The Bowl Inn taken from the garage forecourt.

1 & 2 Slip Hill Cottages,  
Hastingleigh



## Dates For Your Diary

Wed	1st	Coffee Morning	10.30 - 12.00
Thurs	2nd	WI Meeting	19.30
Wed	8th	Walking Group	18.00
Tues	14th	Library Van (TBC)	09.45 - 10.15
Wed	15th	Evington Community Choir	10.30 - 12.00
Wed	22nd	Evington Community Choir	10.30 - 12.00
Tues	28th	Library Van	09.45 - 10.15
Wed	29th	Evington Community Choir	10.30 - 12.00

The above dates are taken from the Evington Hall website calendar  
([www.evingtonhall.org.uk](http://www.evingtonhall.org.uk))

All events at the village hall unless otherwise stated.

# Wye PPG

**W**ye Surgery PPG AGM took place in Wye Parish Church on 11 August. It was delayed this year to allow for a face-to-face meeting – our first since March 2020, although regular meetings have continued online. It was attended by Dr Miles and Practice Manager Helen Goodman, who presented some NHS facts and figures which gave us all pause for thought.

There are now 3 million more patients and 3,000 fewer GPs than ten years ago and the number of patients per practice is 22% higher than it was in 2015. Wye Surgery now has 9,200 patients compared with under 8,000 a few years ago. Unfortunately, the GP workforce has not kept pace with increased demand, so there are now just 0.46 fully qualified GPs per 1000 patients in England - down from 0.52 in 2015. Including the trend towards online appointments, the number of same day or next day appointments is now 25% higher than in March 2019.

The adverse trends look set to continue. Practices are closing at the rate of 3 per week and GPs are leaving the profession at the rate of three per day. GP surveys show that 50% of respondents said they are currently suffering from depression, anxiety, stress, burn-out, or another mental health condition. Of those 40% are suffering 'worse than before the start of the pandemic'.

We are fortunate to have a new medical school at Canterbury and hopefully this will increase the local supply of Drs wanting to live and work in Kent, but it takes ten years to fully train a GP and it will be a while before we feel the beneficial impact.

So where does this leave us as patients? The pandemic has exacerbated an already understaffed and underfunded situation in which the main burden has fallen and will continue to fall on NHS primary care services. The work force is exhausted, but so are we as patients, having struggled with online systems, social isolation and acute anxiety about friends and family over a prolonged period.

Patients and practitioners now need to come together to examine

the provisions of the new Health and Social Care Bill currently before Parliament. It has received very little publicity but, according to the Kings Fund, it represents the biggest shake up of NHS services since its inception. We must watch this space very carefully.

Judith Timms, Chair Wye Surgery PPG

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## So They Do Say...!

**T**here are more than 1500 Albanians in British prisons at present, and make up 16% of our total prison population. (Press)

**British Sportsmanship:** Ticketless, menacing men, many of whom were drunk, were urinating on the ground in the queue for the Cup Final. A large group forced their way in to the gates and occupied the seats others had paid for, but no one dared challenge them. When Italy scored, two Italian fans, one a 60-year-old, cheered and were promptly set upon by eight English louts, who in front of their children, beat them up. The younger was grossly bruised and with probable dental problems. This incident was filmed and given to the police who were said they would pursue the matter, but didn't. (The Spectator)

'When we arrived, several hundred ticketless fans broke through the unguarded Disabled Entrance pushing people and grabbing people's phones so as to use their downloaded tickets. As we entered the ground, there was a mass brawl between gate crashers and stewards during which a friend's phone fell to the ground. A hooligan immediately grabbed it and bolted off with it but a nearby fan tackled him and half a dozen stewards piled in and rescued it' (The Spectator)

The youngest ever Grandmaster of Chess was won in June this year by Abhimanyu Mishra from New Jersey, aged 12 years and 4 months. (Press)

The lawn areas in London's private gardens has reduced 16% and hard surfaces increased by 26% between 1998 and 2008. Plastic lawn sales are booming. (The Spectator)

Trevor Wye

# Farming Notebook

**T**he sun is up and shining (at last!) and so begins another day as harvest finally gets underway.

A fortnight later than normal the combine was out in the oilseed rape on August 7th. Cutting started at moisture of 20%, far too high - our contract for sale states under 10%. However with the summer storms increasing the threat of pod shatter and thus seed loss, we really had no choice.

The yields were pleasing, but did not quite match the expectation as the crop looked so good throughout the growing season. In the end the lack of sunshine took its toll and it turned into a more "average year". Recent research looking at oilseed rape yields confirms that temperature, radiation and drought stress in the period from flower buds present to end of pod fill can reduce yield by up to 40%.

Next to go was the grass seed, a very challenging part of the harvest this year. Far later than normal we put the combine into what looked more like a green silage crop than a dry, ripe seed crop. We use a special header on the combine for grass seed. A "stripper" header. As the name suggests, it has a rotor on which there are row upon row of fingers which rotate at speed and are designed to strip the seed off the stems, leaving the latter firmly fixed to the soil. It is a little like using a flea comb on the dog! The hairs are combed but the flea (seed) remains on the comb. The major benefit is that the combine is not having to deal with a wet, green mass of vegetation and is only having to sort the seed from the chaff. In a normal year this system works perfectly...

This year the grass crop was battered by the incessant rains and pummelled to the ground. The ripening seed heads were left very close to ground. As yet more rain fell the grass plants started to grow again and put up lush new growth that grew through the seed bearing stems. Shielded from any sunshine and out of the wind the seed crop began to look very sorry for itself. The stripper header did a sterling job of combing the seed through the new growth. The combine did

an equally amazing job of putting a seed sample in the tank. But it was so wet that it would not come out of the tank! Every tankful had to be prodded with a stick to get it out and into the trailer. Not a happy task. The unloading auger frequently jammed solid with compacted grass seed, which resembled Stirling board, which took hours to clear. By the time the trailers were tipped in the grain store the seeds were already beginning to heat up. It was essential to get air through the crop to keep it cool and ventilated to avoid damaging the germination of the seeds. The crop was so wet that it was three days before the moisture meter even registered a figure, and that was still far too wet. Even laid out in a layer no more than a foot deep, with good air flow, the heap very soon sealed over. So the whole crop had to be removed from the drying floor and then replaced. This job was undertaken every two days! Eventually after over a week the moisture was approaching a level where the grass seed could be safely stored and the seed felt "crisp". With the addition of a little heat we finally got the crop dry. Many are less fortunate, with large areas of seed having been written off. Eleven month's work for nothing...

It is somewhat ironic that in a difficult season, yields are down, quality is down, there is always additional work to be done in harvesting and subsequent drying and to cap it all the calendar is ticking by leaving less time to prepare for next season's planting. (For optimum planting of the 2022 oilseed rape crop we now have only five days to cut the wheat, bale the straw, cart the straw, apply fertiliser, cultivate the ground and plant the seed!)

Having completed our, and our two neighbour's, grass seed harvesting, it is on to the wheat. Much easier combining- a real treat after what had gone before. The first sample needs a bit of cleaning, some unthrashed tips of the ear and, from the edge of the field, a few grass weed seeds will be removed by the cleaner in the grain store. As suspected, specific weights are down some 10-15% on last year and thus having a significant effect of yields, which due to the lack of sunshine in June were already compromised. At least market prices are rising in response to a variety of global weather events in major grain producing areas which are combining to put severe

pressure on the supply/demand ratio.

The potatoes have reached their seed size and have been topped and sprayed off. There will be very careful monitoring for regrowth of the tops. Small fresh leaves are honeytraps for aphids, which could still inject virus into the plants, and are also a focus for potato blight, which could still spread down into the tubers.

The yields of the different varieties again reflect strongly the weather. Sagitta, an earlier maturing variety was trying to set tubers in that ghastly weather window, so did not fare so well. Yields, from our sample digs look lower than normal. Sagitta is a variety of great promise though, good for chips, mash and boiling.

For the maincrops, Melody (for cooking, a good all rounder) and Markies (a frier, but also makes nice potato salad!), our test digs indicate good tuber numbers and fill. So hopefully that will be reflected in trailer loads off the field!

We are now approaching the autumn grazing season, when grass quality declines, so we have to manage the pastures carefully to keep the suckler cows in the correct condition and the liveweight gain of the store cattle going forward.

Here I need to introduce you to Sussex cow number 110, who is one of our smallest cows, with the biggest appetite, that produces the most beautiful calves with no problems. She is like a grass productivity monitor. Wherever, the grazing is getting short or less palatable, 110 gets the fidgets and will roar when she sees you. She is the biological version of the latest micro-sonic grass quality measuring sensor. The more she roars, the more we have to consider a little supplementary feed..

That means now the troughs go out to the field and we begin feeding a few rolled oats with minerals which ensures that cattle receive their trace element requirement as well as a little something to keep their tummies warm. The calves still have access to their ad-lib creep feeders.

The sun has now set and I am just off to close up the grain store at the end of long day...



## Parishes up the Hill Rota – September

<u>Date</u>		
05/09	First Sunday	09:30 – Petham – Communion
12/09	Second Sunday	09:30 – Waltham – Communion
19/09	Third Sunday	09:30 – Elmsted – Communion 11:00 - Petham – Family Service
26/09	Fourth Sunday	09:30 – Hastingleigh – Communion
<p>All communion services are for all four congregations to worship together.</p> <p><b>Please do not attend if you are at all unwell</b></p> <p>All are subject to it being considered safe for our church services to continue - For up to date service info after the magazine goes to print, visit the Wye Benefice website.</p>		

### This month's church flowers and cleaning volunteers:

	St Mary's	St James
Aug 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept 4 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Morris Mrs French	Mrs Denny Mrs Healy
Sept 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept 18 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Boxall, Mrs Hill Mrs Pell	Mrs Wright Mrs Thrupp
Sep 25 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mrs Bowes Mrs Helmer	Mrs McFarlane Mrs Hewson

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 mailto: revlorrainelawrence@icloud.com. Churchwardens: Roz Bacon 01233 750327, Chris Cox 01227 700378. United Wye Benefice 01233 813793 www.wyebenefice.org.uk

## **In Aid of the Lord Whisky Sanctuary Fund**

*Registered Charity: 283483*



*Park House Animal Sanctuary, Stelling Minnis, Kent CT4 6AN  
01303 862622 [lord.whisky@btinternet.com](mailto:lord.whisky@btinternet.com)  
[www.lordwhisky.co.uk](http://www.lordwhisky.co.uk)*

### **Events at Park House Animal Sanctuary**

#### **Boot & Autumn Fayre - Saturday 11th September**

Boots from 8am (cars £7.50 / vans £10)

Entertainment from 10am with The City of Canterbury Band  
and the Bloco Fogo Samba Band (subject to confirmation)  
Tombola - Raffle - Hot & Cold Refreshments - Entry by dona-  
tion

#### **Boot Fair & End of Year Clearance - Saturday 2nd October**

From 8am - All Boots £5

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#### **The Lord Whisky Tea Rooms**

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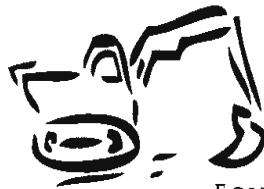


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