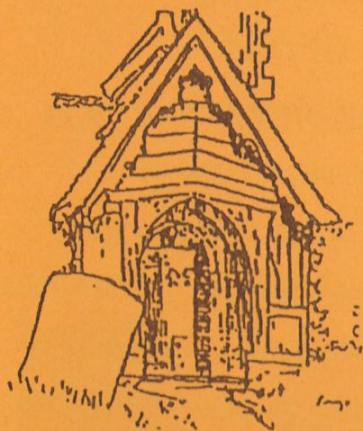
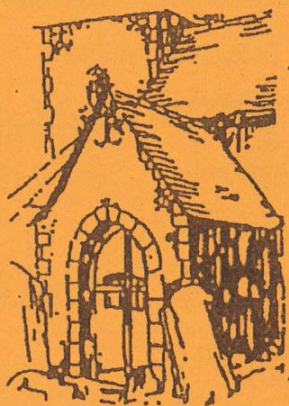


*Elmsted with Hastingleigh*

# *Community News*

*St. James the Great*  
*Elmsted*



*St. Mary The Virgin*  
*Hastingleigh*

*August 2013*    *40p*



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Ravi.Holy@wyebenefice.org.uk

### **Associate Priest**

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(with special responsibility

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for the parishes of Hastingsleigh,

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Elmsted, Petham & Waltham)

Madi.Strong@wyebenefice.org.uk

## ST. JAMES THE GREAT, ELMSTED

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Mr Chris Jeffery

01233 750223

Hon. Secretary PCC:

Mrs Ann Burton

01233 750430

## ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, HASTINGLEIGH

Churchwarden:

Mrs Roz Bacon

01233 750327

Hon. Secretary PCC:

Mrs Selina Farnfield

01233 750450

## PARISH WEBSITES

[www.elmstedpc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.elmstedpc.kentparishes.gov.uk)

[www.hastingleighpc.kentparishes.gov.uk](http://www.hastingleighpc.kentparishes.gov.uk)

## COMMUNITY NEWS

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Little Gains Cottage, TN25 5JU

**Closing date for material: 15th of the month prior to publishing via**

[elmstedwithhastingleighnews@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elmstedwithhastingleighnews@yahoo.co.uk)

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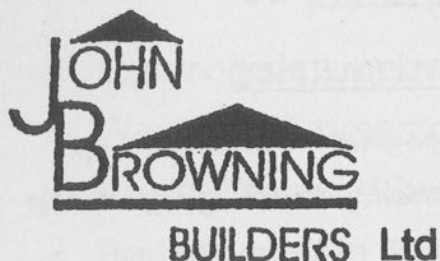
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## The Evington Community Project



have

50 tickets (valued at £19 each)

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at the

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on

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## HASTINGLEIGH FOOTPATH WALKS

At last we enjoyed the summer, so it's now time to look forward to the monthly walks. They all take place on the **second Sunday in the month**, beginning at **2.00 pm** normally starting from **Evington Hall**.

Details will be posted each month in the Community News including any change in the start point.

The following have kindly agreed to lead the walks

### 2013

8<sup>th</sup> September - TBA

13<sup>th</sup> October - Stan & Sheila Burrage

10<sup>th</sup> November - Jack & Christine Luck

8<sup>th</sup> December - Avis Ball

### 2014

1<sup>st</sup> January - Mince Pie Walk!

9<sup>th</sup> February - Jean Bowes

9<sup>th</sup> March - Helen Ransley

13<sup>th</sup> April - Chris & Sarah Pell

11<sup>th</sup> May - Robin & Yvonne Helmer

If you have not been before, they usually last about two hours and provide a really convivial way to spend a Sunday afternoon, and help to keep you fit!

Please come and join us

Derek Harris

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## EVINGTON GARDENERS

A rather heavy, threatening sky, hung over the Society's private evening visit to Old Bladbean Stud Gardens, near Elham, in early July. The showers held off, however, and members were treated to a wonderful and inspirational tour by the garden's owner, Carol Bruce. This was a garden on a very large scale, divided into five areas with different themes and colour schemes and, amazingly, given the volume and profusion of planting and its established nature, only begun a decade ago. The first area, the rose garden, itself on a big scale and shaped like a wedge of cheese with interesting angles and perspectives, was full of old-fashioned and David Austin hybrid roses (which apparently take six weeks to prune!) interspersed with masses of perennials spilling out onto the paths. This was followed by the yellow and white garden, a very refreshing combination of colours, again with David Austin roses and hybrid musks from the 1920s and 1930s combined with perennials in white and yellow and shrubs of philadelphus, lilac and buddleia. The colour scheme in the pastels garden, formerly a tennis court, was pink, mauve, white and blue designed to merge into one another and to be at its best from July to early August. The fourth area, which caused a lot of interest, was a rectangular space containing two 300ft. long doubly symmetrical borders planted in a mirror-image in blue, white and silver reflecting the colours of the sky. The final area, vegetables and fruit, was rather disappointing for this reviewer, apart from the vast quantities of strawberries which are apparently controlled by a lawn mower on its highest setting! Throughout the garden the emphasis was on the natural, leaving plants to go their own way, no composting or manuring in autumn or spring and no division of perennials with propagation by seed. Members were amazed to discover that Carol Bruce manages the garden entirely on her own without help. This is a garden well worth visiting and is open under the National Gardens Scheme on 25th August, 8th and 22nd September and 6th October, 2.pm – 6.pm.

Members also enjoyed a BBQ at Staple Lees in June. Our thanks go very much to Barbara George for hosting it and to all who helped and provided food. Forthcoming events include a visit to Great Dixter and a return to Palmstead Nursery. As ever everyone is welcome to come and join us.

J.P

## Evington Community Project Presents

### Singing For Fun



**Do you only sing in private?**

**Do you sing in the bath?**

**Are you nervous about singing but fancy a try?**

**Do you love singing and want to do more?**

**Heard that singing is good for you as well as fun?**

### Evington Hall

**September 25<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm**

**Sponsored by local charity**



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Fourteen members met on Thursday 4th July at Evington Hall.

The business of the meeting was dealt with and the potential regrouping of WI groups in East Kent discussed with all members.

The President introduced Mr Alan Stockwell who gave a talk on "Dame Ellen Terry - Darling of the Gods". Mr Stockwell described her as the first superstar celebrity of her day.

She was born in Coventry in 1847, the second of nine children born into a family of travelling players. It was inevitable that she would follow in the family footsteps and did so with great success. Her professional and private life was full and varied, she had three husbands and two illegitimate children. She was an amazing charismatic woman and Mr Stockwell did full justice to her memory. Smallhythe Place near Tenterden was her favourite home and is now owned by the National Trust after her daughter donated it to the Trust.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, 1st August and will be a members meeting.

CC

This time of year is when we enjoy the fruits of our labour. It is the time to appreciate the flowers and to pick the fruit.

The dry July rather truncated the flowering but nevertheless the dry and often calm conditions showed off the flowers to best effect. Flowering was maintained by dead heading whenever possible. The dry conditions enabled weeding which will reduce the seed available to cause problems next year.

August is the month when it will soon be the time for moving plants to create a new border or to improve an existing one. With most plants now produced in pots they can be introduced to the garden at practically any time of the year. August/September are still preferred as there is usually sufficient moisture and warmth around to help with quick establishment. However the basic principles still apply. Good preparation will lead to rapid establishment and better growth the following year. The digging over of the area to be planted up and the application of compost to lighten the soil will show major benefits. The addition of a general fertilizer will give the plants a good start and enable the roots to develop.

August/September is a good time to repair the bare patches in the lawn as grass seed germinates better when the soil temperature is warm. Aerate the soil with a fork, add fresh soil and slow release fertilizer if necessary. Water the patches in dry conditions and cover them with netting if necessary to keep the birds at bay.

It is also the time to apply Autumn feed with moss and weed killer. Autumn rather than summer feed as this contains less nitrogen and is therefore more suitable for the slow winter growth. You will see the benefit next year!

A recent visit by the Evington Garden Society to the garden at Old Bladbean Stud showed what can be achieved. Several acres of garden were managed by 1 person by the choice of plants and a great deal of dedication. It was an enlightening and enjoyable visit and the cakes were good as well.



## CHURCH SERVICES FOR ELMSTED & HASTINGLEIGH

4 <sup>th</sup> August	10.30 Hastings: Holy Communion (CW)	In August, services are shared between the 4 churches in the 'Up-the-Hill Cluster'
11 <sup>th</sup> August	11.00 Petham: Holy Communion (CW)	
18 <sup>th</sup> August	10.30 Elmsted: Holy Communion CW)	
25 <sup>th</sup> August	10.30 Waltham: Holy Communion (CW)	

**Sunday Teatime:** No Sunday Teatime this month: we'll resume in September. We've broken up for the summer - so let's hope we get one!!

### CHURCH FLOWER AND CLEANING ROTA

	St. Mary's Hastings	St. James' Elmsted
Jul 27th	Mrs Ball	Mrs McFarlane
Aug 3rd	Mrs Pell Mrs Homer	Mrs Hewson
Aug 12th	Mrs Bacon	Mrs Wright
Aug 17th	Mrs Geering Mrs Jerrom	Mrs Thrupp
Aug 24th	Dr & Mrs Lawson	Mrs Browning
Aug 31st		Mrs Jeffery



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thurs 1st	WI Meeting (Page 18)	7.30pm
Wed 7th	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Mon 26th	Bowl Inn Beer Festival (Page 15)	Midday

**Note:** All events at Evington Hall unless otherwise stated.  
 Parent & Toddler Group meet every Tuesday - 9.30am  
 Mobile Library every Wednesday 10.55am - 11.20am  
 Art Group meet on Thursdays 9.30am - 12.30pm

### Reginald Evelyn Gunn

"Ben"

1936 – 2013

It is with sadness that we report the death of Ben Gunn. His funeral was held at St Ambrose Church, Wye on July 8th.

Ben was an active member of the art group, serving as treasurer and also as chairman of the magazine committee where he provided valuable support to the editor until ill health forced him to resign.

Ben's family would like to thank the district nurses whose expertise helped him through very painful times; also Dr Bill Crawley and the staff of the Pilgrims' Hospice. We also wish to thank the community at St Ambrose Church and our wonderful neighbours who have been such great support. Thank you.

## A SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF HASTINGLEIGH PARISH COUNCIL ON 9<sup>th</sup> JULY 2013

The Parish Councillors agreed the wording of a questionnaire that is to be distributed to all parish residents. The questionnaire responses will be collated by the next meeting.

Cllr Johnson would like to express a vote of thanks to ECP for the boundary lane improvements and the lovely event on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July. Cllr Johnson suggested inter-village bat and trap games/football matches.

There was some concern over the car-stop that had been placed at the entrance to the field. This has been put in to stop cars driving round the field in bad weather and damaging the field surface. Parking is available at the hall.

The Clerk is available between 10am and 3pm Monday to Friday as she is currently receiving telephone calls over the weekend and in the evenings. The Clerk can be contacted on [clerk@hastingleighpc.kentparishes.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@hastingleighpc.kentparishes.gov.uk) out of office hours.

Lawncare have passed a complaint to the Council that the amount of dog mess on the playing field makes strimming a very difficult and messy job. Could residents with dogs please not allow their dog to mess on the field.

Cllr Howard reported that he is going to put a regular article in the parish magazine, he also has a ward members grant of £4,000 to be spent across his 18 parishes.

The new waste collection system has now begun. The Clerk informed him of some properties having not received their bins yet. He needs a house name and postcode and then he can chase.

The new John Lewis store is under way and will open at Christmas time and the Outlet is now working with the Town Centre and more shops should soon be opening in town. There will also be a supermarket in the town soon. Park mall remains too expensive for companies. Ashford Borough Council are looking at trade properties with additional housing in parts of the town centre.

The Borough Council is hoping to encourage executive business' to come to Ashford along the High Speed Line and have relaxed the density requirements of new builds. The railway works is going to be made into housing/business and may be light industrial units too.

The Dance Company and St Mary's Church are providing some culture for the town and there are still some plans for a theatre and Ashford Borough Council now has a seat on the education decision board.

### Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday September 10<sup>th</sup> 2013.



## WYE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

### 'Free at the point of contact' - but who pays?

Have you ever wondered how services at the Surgery, in A&E, and the new 111 service are financed? Of course, the money comes from public taxes, but payment for these services is not straightforward.

When the NHS was set-up in 1948, the service was more or less free and has remained so ever since. From the start, GPs and their practices were separated from hospitals and other parts of the NHS and local practices remained private businesses. The partners within a practice run the business partnership, providing primary care within the budgets allotted to them by NHS England.

The budget for hospital and community health in England is currently £65 billion per year. Following recent changes, this is now allocated by more than 200 Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), which are consortia of local GPs. The Ashford CCG has a budget of £134 million per year, most of which goes on hospital care of every kind. A further £25 billion nationally for Primary Care and other specialised services comes directly from NHS England. Local Practices are able to commission specialist services and we have a number at Wye, paid for out of the practice budget.

Wye Surgery does not pay for the 111 service. This is financed separately by NHS England. However, all visits to A&E by patients from Wye Surgery are charged to the practice. Currently, the practice is expected to make a saving of 10% on A&E costs.

The Ashford CCG holds a budget for Wye Surgery that has to cover the cost of any hospital treatment for all of its patients.

How can we help Wye Surgery to be as cost effective as possible? One possibility is using the minor injuries clinic. This operates during weekday surgery hours (bookable by phone) and can enable rapid treatment of certain minor injuries, avoiding a visit to A&E. Attendance of appointments is another critical area. Each month there are a large numbers of missed appointments and these waste valuable resources and incur unnecessary expense. Care with repeat prescriptions is also important as once the label is attached to the box, the product is paid for and cannot be recycled. A great deal of medicine is wasted each month for this reason.

Budgets are tightening within the NHS, so careful and responsible use of all services is very important for our future care and well-being.

Chairman Mr J Fletcher 01233 813148 Secretary Mrs L Saint 01233 812084

## REVEREND DICKIE CLEVELAND

Dickie's funeral was an amazing event. Hardly surprising that she planned the whole thing, choosing all the music, readings and indeed, the speakers herself. The eulogy was given by one of her old actress friends, April Walker who you might have recognised from Fawlty Towers. In my address, reproduced below, I talked about how the glamorous Lorna Lewis became the Reverend (and sometimes not so reverend) Dickie Cleveland.

There was a bit of a running joke between me and Dickie when I first arrived because I had to start quite a few funerals by saying "sadly I didn't know so and so but I've heard all about them". I certainly can't say that on this occasion, we were not only colleagues but great friends – and more even than that, she was a sort of surrogate mother to me; she and Pete spent Christmas with us the year before last and probably would have done again last year except that we knew it would be her last and clearly she needed to spend that with her actual family.

In fact, we weren't even sure if she'd make it to Christmas but not only did she do that, she made it to Easter and was even able to preach in Brook Church on Maundy Thursday and here in Wye on Good Friday. Her last ever sermon was at the Bell ringers Evensong here in April. The bell ringers were very dear to her....

But Dickie had a track record of defying expectations. When she first went forward for ordination, the people whose job it is to discern vocations decided that she wasn't 'the right sort of person' to be a priest. Not because she was a woman, as this was some time after women were finally allowed to become priests. The problem was more that she'd been an actress and as we all know actresses aren't really respectable. At least that was what people thought in 1997. This conversation was taking place in 2000; I would have to say that the person who made that decision was guilty of the most spectacular misjudgement since Decca Records turned down The Beatles in 1962 with the words 'Guitar groups are on the way out.

Precisely because she was an actress, Dickie was more than used to dealing with rejection. One of my favourite of her stories which she specifically instructed me to share with you is about when she was an extra in the 1961 film 'Splendour in the Grass' with Natalie Wood. Like most Hollywood stars she had a body double for some scenes, one of which involved putting on a swimsuit and diving into a lake. This particular body double couldn't swim so suddenly there was a panic on the set and the director Elia Kazan sent the assistant director Charlie Maguire to find someone else. Charlie and Dickie were mates so he stuck her in a costume and presented her to Kazan who took one look and said...'Forget it Charlie, she's too big'. To be fair I think he meant too tall rather than anything else. I'll always

think of her as Eliza Doolittle, a role she originally played off Broadway and later reprised as part of a one woman show in Wye.

Speaking personally, Dickie's irreverence was one of the things I loved most about her; she had a fantastic sense of humour and she put everybody at their ease and I'm sure that's why so many people including people who weren't really churchgoers and who were generally suspicious of religion found her so easy to talk to and confide in. A bit like Jesus really. I'm not suggesting that Jesus would have stripped down to bra and pants in Evington hall as Dickie did but he scandalised people in other ways. To the point he was called a blasphemer and executed.

For me, Dickie was everything a priest should be and in the end the church did recognise her call and I don't think that anyone is in any doubt that that was the right thing.

I have been asked to read a brief message from the Right Reverend and Right honourable Lord Williams of Oystermouth, or Rowan as he is known to his friends, of which Dickie was one, and shows how highly she was thought of in the church. He wrote: It was a real grief to hear of Dickie's death. I treasured her friendship; she was one of those people who simply went on offering counsel and comfort to others when she herself was facing pain and uncertainty. I always looked forward to seeing her or hearing from her; she was unfailingly generous, positive, patient and realistic. I wonder if she ever knew how much her Archbishop valued her pastoral support for him?! Her calm and courage have helped so many in the past few years. She has been a genuine sign of hope to others struggling with illness uncertainty or doubt. Like her family and her church family I thank God for her witness and I shall miss her profoundly. She was, and still is, one of God's great gifts to the diocese of Canterbury.

Part of me would like to travel back in time and read that to the person who said no to her all those years ago; but we are in the forgiveness business and as the resurrection of Jesus shows us, you can't keep a good man (or woman) down. I love the way that Rowan ended his message by affirming our resurrection faith: that while Dickie is, tragically, dead to us, she is still alive with God. Obviously, she's still alive in our hearts and minds as well and always will be, but the Christian faith dares to claim much more than that. As we heard at the beginning of the funeral service, Jesus said 'Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live'.

Dickie often told me the story of how she upset someone by saying that she didn't have a clue what exactly happens to us when we die and they took that as a lack of faith. But the Bible itself says, in 1 John chapter 2 'what we will be has not yet been revealed' and Dickie's point was simply the same as that made by Saint Paul

elsewhere in the Bible: Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

We do not know what is on the other side of the grave but those of us with faith know that God is waiting for us there. And so, now, is Dickie and although we will miss her hugely we rejoice that one day we will see her again. Amen

Ravi Holy

A shortened version of Ravi's address due to constraints of space.

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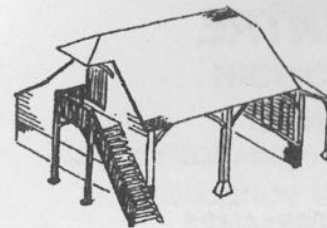
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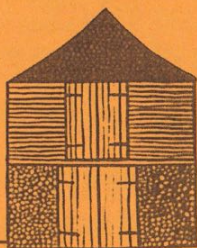
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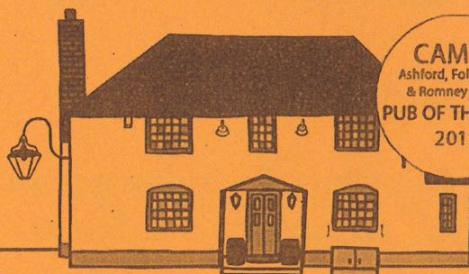
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