

Elmsted with Hastingleigh Community News

*St James the Great
Elmsted*



*St Mary the Virgin
Hastingleigh*

February 2020

40p



Elmsted and Hastingleigh Community Contacts

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Hastingleigh Parish Council

Tracey Block 01233 750415

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(www.evingtonhall.org.uk)

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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 are having a cold spell, resulting in beautiful blue skies making a much needed change to the dreary rain. Don't miss the Film Night and fish and chip supper on the 15th (p21). The community have been busy raising funds over the Christmas and New Year periods; events held by the Bowl Inn raised £1500 for Pilgrims Hospices and the Christmas Bazaar raised £730 for Hall funds. The History Enthusiast has shared some interesting articles on why people didn't smile in old photos (p11). Subscriptions are due, please return your filled envelope to your distributor as soon as possible. As always letters, articles and comments are very welcome.

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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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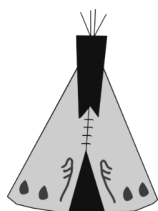
Most aspects of Household and Garden Maintenance

References available

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Hastingleigh with Elmsted Women's Institute

Hastingleigh with Elmsted W.I. met on Thursday the 2nd of January 2020 at the Evington Hall. 22 members attended.

We discussed various items of business before our speaker, Mr George Ward, gave us a talk on The History of Cheesemaking. Mr Ward is the retail manager for the Cheesemakers of Canterbury. The company was set up in 2007, when the owners bought the recipe to Ashmore cheese from a Dorset company, and all their equipment. Since then they have added a number of different cheeses, and they are sent all over the world by their customers. All their soft cheeses are produced in Hastingleigh at South Hill Farm. Cheese making began around 7,500 years ago, as a by-product of excess milk, which couldn't be stored. Cheese making produces large quantities of whey; 10 litres of milk, produces 1 kilogram of cheese, leaving 9 litres of whey. The whey

from making the Cheesemakers of Canterbury cheeses is fed to local pigs. The talk was concluded with a taste of some of the different cheeses that they make; a very yummy ending to a very interesting talk.

The Flower of the Month winner for the Year 2019 was Jean Bowes and the Competition Winner for the Year 2019 was Yvonne Helmer. The Flower of the Month winner for January was Marie Wenham and the winner of the January competition, a Cheese Recipe, was Yvonne Helmer.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday the 6th February at 7.30 p.m., in the Evington Hall, where we will be having a talk on Bats in the Belfry and Badgers in the Underpass. Any new members will be made most welcome.

Marie Wenham



Club

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

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In The Garden

After a very wet autumn when it seemed almost every day brought some rain, with the new year a bit of dry weather started to appear and instead of walking down a quagmire to get to the compost heaps a little firmness started to appear in the soil. Living as we do among the hills we did not suffer the extreme devastation of flooding that affected the midlands and north. Coming as it did after the heat and drought of mid summer last year was the weather balancing up? A colleague in Somerset pointed out that taking 2019 as a whole the total rainfall was not far from average – it just came at the ‘wrong’ times. Having worked on the land as both a farmer and a gardener for a full 60 years observing weather patterns, the seasons and the behaviour of animals and birds I lean strongly to the view that the world’s climate is changing and the scientific studies point to population growth and the quest for continual economic expansion and personal wealth.

There is an ancient tradition that the gardening season starts at St Valentine’s day, 14th February, but mine starts earlier than that with the sowing of May Queen lettuce as early as 1st January, or shortly after and then, in quick succession, onions from seed. The simpler way, and still good, is to buy onion sets to be planted just below ground level as the soil starts to warm in March. These are grown from seed the previous summer with seed sown quite thickly, about 12mm apart, and harvested early when the bulbs are less than 25mm diameter and dried. The lettuce will come to harvest after autumn sown lettuce such as Valdor that has stood out in the garden unprotected. It always seems a surprising thing that pigeons do not like lettuce and you do not have to net them to protect them from these always-hungry birds.

But 14th February is still not a bad time to start and the May Queen and onions will of course need heat to germinate in some nice compost this early in the year. An electric heated propagator in the greenhouse, a conservatory or a warm window sill in the house will all provide the necessary heat of about 18 - 20°C to get them going. The onion family take their time to emerge so you will have to show patience and don’t bury the lettuce seeds. They need to be kept moist of course but a sheet of glass or some cling film will help.

Permanent flowering shrubs are exceedingly early this year. Winter



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In The Garden cont.

flowering Jasmine has been a delight and Christmas Box and Lonicera Fragrantissima were heavy with scent right at the beginning of the year but too early for even the bumblebees to benefit and enjoy. This is a good time to plant bare rooted trees and soft fruit. Due to the wet soil conditions my crab apple Evereste and desert apple Christmas Pippin together with summer and autumn fruiting raspberries have yet to arrive from the nursery. The message has been that the nursery soils are just too wet for them to get on the land with their normal tasks. I am grateful for their prudence and caution – planting into soggy soil is going to do no good at all.

Instead time can be spent making sure that the seed orders are up to date and early potatoes, once they arrive, are set in trays in the light for the eyes to chit without growing leggy. Seeds are expensive and I am in the habit of alternating between buying early and main crop seed potatoes and keeping the other to grow on for one year. This way I have avoided buying in virus problems.

Fred

The Bowl Inn



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The Mince Pie Walk

On the 1st January, villagers and friends gathered at the village hall for the annual Mince Pie Walk. There were 22 of us, accompanied by 4 dogs ready for a short, easy and dog friendly walk of about an hour, all grateful that the rain was holding off, but unsure as to the quantity of mud we would encounter.

We set off down the road towards Evington park, before turning right on to the footpath across the field to the Pilgrims lane. We headed back towards the village pond, then turned down Tamley Lane until we came to the footpath on the right and entered the field through a gate, so much easier than the stile that used to be there. We exited the field through another gate and walked away from the village, following the hedge next to the road as far as the crossroads, where two of the walkers headed back to the village. We walked on down the road to Staple Lees lane, where we were joined by another walker and his dog.

At the top of the lane we turned right, through a muddy puddle and continued along the byway to the next footpath on the right that took us to the junction on the Waltham road, where we were persuaded to stop for a photo shoot. Walking as part of a group encourages some interesting conversations, and there was a discussion about place names and how the local population relates to the surroundings. How many of us know where Chandlers crossroads, Jacksons corner and Johnsons corner are? These references are not set in stone and will be, or, indeed, have been replaced by the names of more recent inhabitants. It was suggested maybe this could be the subject of a future article for the village news!

After the junction, we turned into the footpath at the top of Lyddendane lane, through the woods, and out into the fields behind the village, emerging on to the road beside Boundary Cottage, before going back to the hall for mince pies, mulled wine, and more chat.

Our grateful thanks to Janet and Derek who organised the event and worked hard to prepare the refreshments for us all. HR

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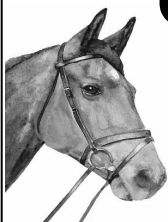
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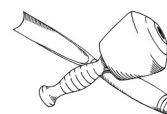
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The History Enthusiast

Why didn't people smile in old photos?

Have you ever wondered why your ancestors always look so serious in photographs?

This article by the Familysearch website at:

<https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/why-didnt-people-smile-in-old-photos/>

or

<https://tinyurl.com/vdb87og>

is worth a read to discover why. And also find out when we did actually start smiling.

The link was retrieved from the 18 Nov 2019 issue of the newsletter at:

<https://www.lostcousins.com/pages/members/home.mhtml>

or

<https://tinyurl.com/sc8qpya>

which is an interesting free genealogical site to subscribe to.
History Enthusiast

Evington Hall Committee

The Christmas Bazaar held at the end of November was a great success and raise £730 for hall funds. A big thank you to the helpers, donors of gifts for the stalls and to those who supported 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. The event raised £384 shared equally between the village hall and St Mary's Hastingleigh.

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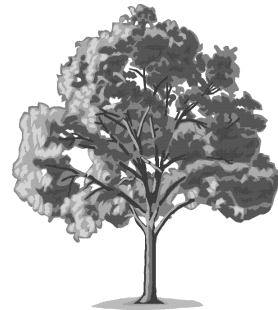
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Wye Surgery PPG

HEALTHY LIFE EXPECTANCY- 70 IS THE NEW 65

In recent years, much has been made of the Health and Social Care demands of an aging population, but how old is old?

The twentieth century saw dramatic improvements in life expectancy through a combination of public health measures such as childhood immunisations and the introduction of universal health care, medical advances such as the treatment of heart disease and cancer and lifestyle changes, including a marked decline in smoking. According to the King's Fund (www.kingsfund.org.uk) life expectancy at birth in England had increased to 79.6 years for men and 83.2 years for women. This means that stages of life can no longer be crudely defined as youth, middle age and old age as in the past.

What is less well recognized is that HEALTHY life expectancy has not kept pace with this increase and that elderly people spend more years in poor health. The King's Fund estimates that men live 16.3 years in "not good health" and that the figure for women is 19.4 years. Although women can expect to live 3.6 years longer than men, only 0.4 of those extra years are healthy ones.

We can all do something about this. January produced plenty of media advice about quitting smoking, cutting back on alcohol, eating more healthily and taking exercise. Even standing on one leg as you brush your teeth can improve balance. Every little helps. The good news is that it is never too late to reap the benefits of a more active lifestyle.

The challenge, therefore, is not in living longer, but in extending the years of healthy and active life to make the extra years happy and productive. Retired people should not just be seen as burdens on the NHS and Social Care. They contribute very

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Wye PPG cont.

significantly to our society and economy not only through helping to care for grandchildren, (research indicates that almost one in three families are turning to grandparents for help with childcare) but also through the redeployment of their considerable skills and experience. The age demographic on committees (including the PPG!) and charitable boards demonstrates that they rely heavily on the voluntary giving of time by those over 65. So keep moving and stay involved in your community. They need you as much as you need them.

JUDITH TIMMS PPG CHAIR

‘So they do say...!’

‘My heaven will be filled with wonderful young men and dukes’.
Barbara Cartland

‘Sometimes I think we are alone in the universe, and sometimes I think we’re not. In either case the idea is quite staggering.’ And...

‘I don’t believe in God, but I’m very interested in her.’
Arthur C. Clarke.

‘I expect you know my friend Evelyn Waugh, who, like your Holiness, is a Roman Catholic.’ Randolph Churchill during an audience with the Pope.

‘The vicar’s wife has to get on with everyone, but you can take only so much of hearing that the sun shines out of your husband’s bum.’
Susan Devonshire-Jones, a Vicar’s wife.

‘I want to go to heaven. But if Jeffrey Archer is there, I want to go to Lewisham.’ Spike Milligan.



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St. Mary's Appeal Talks

Thanks to our superb speakers on 2 evenings, over £1,000 has been raised for the appeal for our extension of toilet and kitchenette. Over 70 people heard Nick Merriman talk about Museums in the Past, Present and Future. His wife, Maria, was able to answer some of the pertinent questions at the end, being director of the Tate.

There must have been 100 people on 16th November, enjoying the delicious nibbles and then an extraordinary insight into the corruption in our world in the field of athletics, and the way Tony Hooper QC is trying to help the people of Ukraine have a decent judicial system. Thank you for all your support.

The appeal has raised £12,307. The church has been enhanced by this superbly built extension, and having the facilities of a toilet and running water, has made the running of various activities we hope the church will host, possible.

Three dates for your diaries for 2020, all at 7 pm in St. Mary's;
Friday April 24th – a springtime concert by the chamber choir of King's School, Canterbury.

Saturday May 16th – a talk on wildlife conservation in our local area.

Saturday June 13th – a talk "Canterbury goes viral" (2020 is the 800th anniversary of the removal of Becket's bones into a shrine in the cathedral).

Full details to follow.

Roz Bacon

Brian Berry's book on History of Hastingleigh (2002)

If anyone has a copy of this brown hardback book and does not require it, I would be very grateful if they could give/sell it to me. It is a scholarly history of the village put together by Professor Brian Berry and his students in 2002, after Prof. Berry bought the Lordship of the Manor of Hastingleigh.

If you can help contact Roz Bacon on 01233 750327,
email roz.bacon@btinternet.com

Church services in the Parish Upon The Hills		
02/02	First Sunday	09.30 - Hastingleigh - Group service for Elmsted, Hastingleigh, Petham & Waltham.
09/02	Second Sunday	08.00 - Waltham - BCP Communion 11.00 - Petham - Communion
16/02	Third Sunday	09:30 - Waltham - Communion 11:00 - Hastingleigh - BCP Communion 11:00 - Petham - Family Service 17.00 - Elmsted - Choral Evensong
23/02	Fourth Sunday	11:00 - Hastingleigh Communion 11:00 - Petham Family Communion
26/02	Ash Wednesday	19:30 - Wye - Benefice Service

This month's church flowers and cleaning volunteers:		
	St Mary's	St James'
Feb 1 st Feb 7 th	Mrs Bacon Mrs Geering Mrs Sharp Mrs Hill	Mrs Gregory Mrs Pay
Feb 14 th Feb 22 nd	Dr & Mrs Lawson Mrs Day	Mrs Denny Mrs Healy
Feb 29 th Mar 7 th	Mrs Boxall Mrs Pell	Mrs Wright Mrs Thrupp

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

Diary Dates - February

Tues	4th	Toddler Group	09.30 - 11.30
		Library Van	09.45 - 10.15
Wed	5th	Coffee Morning	10.30 - 11.30
		Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00
Thurs	6th	W.I. Meeting	19.30 - 22.00
Sun	9th	Footpath Group	14.00
Tues	11th	Toddler Group	09.30 - 11.30
		Hastingleigh PC Meeting	19.30 - 21.00
Wed	12th	Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00
Fri	14th	Whist Drive	19.00 - 22.00
Sat	15th	ECP Film Show	15.30 - 22.30
Tues	18th	Library Van	09.45 - 10.15
		Evington Gardeners	19.30 - 22.00
Tues	25th	Toddler Group	09.30 - 11.30
Wed	26th	Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00

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

All events at the village hall unless otherwise stated

Subscriptions

Hopefully you will have been given an envelope with your Community News this month. The annual subscription has once again stayed at £4 for the year. Can I please ask you to put your subscription money into the envelope, write your name on the front and return it to your distributor as soon as possible.

As always we welcome articles from our readers whether a one off or monthly but it must be suitable for all ages.

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Farming Notebook

I am delighted to report that I am sitting in a warm office, writing this article, whilst storm “Brendon” (Who thinks of these names??) is lashing at the windows. We are expecting very high winds and heavy rain again tonight and I have to say it is pretty wild outside.

I spent a couple of hours today clearing a fallen tree off Curtis Lane. I got absolutely soaked! It was an Ash, but with healthy looking branches. The root however was completely rotten and very symptomatic of Ash dieback. I really do wonder if any Ash trees will survive. The recent tree survey of the Common has identified many Ash trees for felling with most of the others for continued monitoring which does not bode well...

At the end of last week we had enjoyed a few dry days, and the sun shone. Was spring really on its way? I took the opportunity of looking around the farm with Andrew Bourne who is responsible for all the seed production for our local merchants T.Denne and Son. We both wanted to assess the state of the winter planted crops. Andrew is particularly concerned about the availability of seeds for next autumn’s plantings. Some seed crops have not been planted, some have been planted and failed to emerge and many are already going to be well below the potential yields that we have become used to. And we, in this part of Kent, are so much better off than areas of Romney Marsh, and further north. In both cases plantings are a tiny proportion of the area planned. With Storm Brendon the window of opportunity to plant winter wheat will have firmly been slammed shut. Already this wet spell that started in late September is going to impact on the 2021 harvest. We have about 100 tonnes of high grade winter wheat seed left over from the autumn. Andrew has reserved this for dressing in June or July for next seasons planting to help with the expected shortfall of seed at harvest.

Generally we were both pleased with the state of the crops. The oilseed rape is all there, but in desperate need of some fertiliser. The earlier planted wheats look good. The second year wheats, planted

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Farming Notebook cont.

more recently look less pleasing, especially the headlands. Our soils are particularly prone to running together in periods of heavy rain. Not a problem if the crops have emerged, but for the seeds that have yet to come up they have to push through a very solid barrier and many never make it.

The disappointment for me is that we were very patient in planting these later crops. Waiting for a couple a dry days and letting the ground dry a little before planting. I really thought the drilling had gone well and the seedbeds were quite respectable. But latterly, rain, rain, and more rain has had its effect. I think a couple of fields will need the headlands ripped up in the spring. Andrew suggested planting radish in the bare soil as a cover crop. This will help to improve the soil structure as the roots will go down a long way and break up the consolidated soil, as well as drawing out some of the moisture. Hopefully this will lead to better working soils in the autumn.

As with the drilling, I hesitate to “count my chickens”. Good planting, if the weather turns against you is no guarantee of success. Likewise, the crops which have established well have just been too wet to get the sprayer on to apply the first insecticide. It has been mild and it is easy to find aphids in the hedgerows and field margins. Aphids carry a virus and if they feed off a wheat plant will infect it. The virus develops in the wheat plant and significantly reduces its yield potential. We will not know for some months whether we have virus. The real frustration is that until this autumn we would treat our seed with an insecticide which would protect it until the spring. The seed treatment has been banned. The result is that we have to spray more often!

The story is repeated with Oilseed Rape. The insecticide seed treatment has been banned and thus the crop is vulnerable to attack from cabbage stem flea beetle. This little pest eats the emerging seedlings and kills many of them. Those that survive are the target for the insect as a site for laying its eggs. Many very healthy looking

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Farming Notebook cont.

crops are full of eggs or larvae which once the warmer weather arrives will start to eat their host plant. For us, the risks of growing Oilseed Rape are now so great that this will probably be our last year of production. The irony is that the banning of the seed treatment to protect bees will ultimately remove a massive source of food for the same insect. The law of unexpected consequences...

Luckily for us we have been very busy dressing out seed potatoes. We dispatched a record tonnage before Christmas, and are flat out again now. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are spent grading each week. It is work in the dry and the workshop has a wood burner to make it cosy for tea times. We rely on the haulier to clear the orders on Thursdays and Fridays so that we have room to start again the next week.

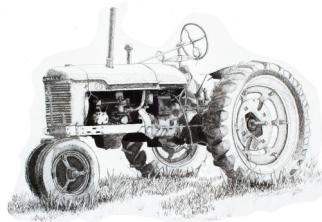
Soon Dennes will start to clear our spring oats, beans and grass seed as they will all be needed for planting this spring. The demand is enormous as so much land still needs planting. I am not expecting anything to be left in store.

The cattle are so pleased to be inside. We let the bulls out during the day, but today they refused to leave the pen. Very sensible. The cows are very content lying on fresh straw and being fed ad lib silage. With calving only a few weeks away they all look well and in good condition, but not too good...

It is still pouring down outside. I have to leave the office and get to the house.

I am going to have to make a run for it...

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