

# Elmsted with Hastingleigh Community News



*St James the Great  
Elmsted*



*St Mary the Virgin  
Hastingleigh*

March 2017

40p



# March

## in Elmsted with Hastingleigh

**T**HIS month has proved to be a lean one as far as contributions are concerned so your edition of this newsletter is smaller than usual.

All are welcome to contribute—there must be a letter writer out there somewhere who wants to spark a lively debate (dog poo, potholes, noisy neighbours?).

Note that the Diary Dates are in a new format; copied as they are from the new Evington Hall website courtesy of the webpage 'owners'.

Watch the website for news of other village events.

**The Editor**



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## Submissions

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

Please send any promotional literature for your event in Word format rather than pdf.

News, views etc to: [elmstedwithhastingleighnews@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:elmstedwithhastingleighnews@yahoo.co.uk). Or write to The Secretary, Beddlestone Grange, Hampton Lane, Brook, TN25 5PN.  
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small projects - large projects - emergencies*

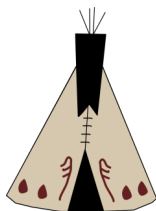
**Most aspects of Household and Garden Maintenance**

*References available*

*Also*

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# Death and divorce at the W.I.

**O**UR speaker this month was Mrs Cliona Kilroy who gave us a very entertaining and interesting talk about her life as an auctioneer.

She works at Canterbury Auction Galleries, which have been trading for 25 years.

They deal with silver, jewellery, paintings, militaria, clocks, rugs and furniture.

She led us through the process of selling, from the initial phone call to the sale in the auction room.

Things are usually sold because of the three Ds – death, downsizing



and divorce, and she spoke about different collections and their outcomes. We covered items of business, including our future Group Meeting. Mrs Bowes won both the flower of the month and the competition.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March at 7.30pm, when Ms Melanie Gibson-Barton will talk about *The Life and Times of Edith Cavell*.

Any new members would be made most welcome.

**Fiona Steward**

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# Explore charm of Kingswood in winter



## The walkers discover a leafy landscape

**E**IGHT stalwarts set off at 2.15pm from the north end of the main car park taking the middle path of three and heading in a northerly direction.

The first section was through a scrubby coppice overgrown with brambles, broom and rushes then two stands of mature trees until we came to a junction of three paths and a forest road.

Here we took the path east to Oathill Farm, formerly a riding establishment, but now a large house with a terraced garden. There is a road leading up to Molash and the A252.

We continued down past a tall cupressus hedge and through a gate. We ignored the road climbing steeply in front of us but chose the road heading in a south easterly direction with a gentler slope and a succession of wood

ant nests on the left. It descended to cross another road and then climbed again. Near the top was a coppiced area on the left and we turned right onto a muddy track going south.

After about 500yards, at the crossing paths, we turned right again to head west and cross a forest road. There is an Art Installation, a low round table which looks as if it could be an orientation table.

We reached the home straight, the second exit sign at the top of the hill, a left turn, some heathland to skirt to the right then through the trees back to the car park - almost three miles in one and three-quarter hours.

A good way to spend a cold, raw afternoon with a nagging easterly wind.

**Hilary Pittock**

PS Visit in April or early May to see the bluebells.



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# Mongolian flowers for Kew

**A**T the height of the Cold War in 1978, Peter Morgan was sent to Ulaan Baator as charge d'affaires at the British embassy.

His and his wife's experiences of Mongolia were related in a fascinating talk entitled, "An appointment in Mongolia" given by his widow, Pat, at the meeting in January.

Mrs Morgan began with a description of some of the history and life of Mongolia and followed it with a very interesting film made by her late husband.

After the end of the Mongolian empire and the age of Genghis Khan in 1300, the country went into isolation and awoke in 1921 to find itself a satellite of Stalin's Russia.

It is a vast country, the size of western Europe and largely empty, with a harsh climate - down to -25F in winter. Farming consists mainly of large flocks of sheep on the extensive grassy steppe. In 1978 there were no shops in Ulaan Baator, just a weekly market, no proper roads outside the capital, and most of the population lived in yurts. There was

only one, very bad, hotel and consequently the British embassy was often used by visiting businessmen.

The Western diplomatic mission consisted of one eccentric Frenchman, one Indian, one Japanese and one Yugoslav with the British representing the USA.

The Iron Curtain countries had a much bigger representation along with the Chinese. Telegrams were sent by morse code to Australia and then on by satellite. Supplies arrived via the diplomatic bag.

There were some interesting scenes in Peter Morgan's film: the weekly train arriving from Moscow or Beijing; picnics in the surrounding countryside with Mrs Morgan collecting wild flowers for Kew Gardens; the last remaining monastery in Ulaan Baator practising a debased form of Buddhism and some lovely footage of riders and their horses, the main form of transport in Mongolia and descendants of those used by Genghis Khan.

It was an excellent talk and well attended in spite of the cold winter evening. At the Christmas party in December, members enjoyed music (including Jingle Bells played on two carrots!). Our thanks go to Trevor and the Studio Players for providing it.

The talk on 21<sup>st</sup> March, given by Richard Filmer, is about old Ashford. Everyone is welcome.

**JP**

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# Patients needed for a healthy debate at Wye

**I**N January we wrote about the East Kent and Medway Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP), which outlined aims for integrating medical and care services and asked for feedback from patients.

There are several ways that patients can express their views, either through the CCG website **[www.ashfordccg.nhs.uk](http://www.ashfordccg.nhs.uk)** or in person through Patient Participation Groups (PPG).

Each PPG has representatives on several other bodies and from Wye PPG we have representatives on the Ashford North group of practices and on the Ashford PPG (APPG) which covers all the practices in Ashford and the surrounding villages.

We can also send representatives to the CCG meetings and table questions.

Unfortunately, the Ashford North meetings and the APPG meetings have been postponed during the consultation on the STP and several influential and hard-working people resigned as

they felt that patient voices aren't being heard. It is vital we express our views and help shape the NHS and Social Care of the future.

**Wye Patient Participation Group will be holding our AGM Tuesday 11 April, 7.15pm in the surgery waiting area.**

We are fortunate that Andrea Fridd from Adult Social Services will be speaking about how social care is being developed.

You are invited to the AGM and to join the PPG, either as a member of the virtual group, receiving information by email, or as a member, attending bi-monthly meetings.

Patient opinions and views will be taken to the Ashford meetings to inform the discussion on future services.

- If you need private chiropody services, Podplus are seeing patients at Wye surgery once a month, phone 01233 660 851 or email [info@podplus.co.uk](mailto:info@podplus.co.uk).

**Wye Surgery  
Patient Participation Group**

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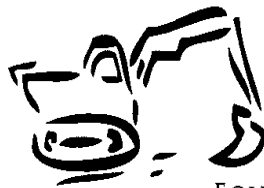


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# The Parish upon the Hills

**I** FEEL like we're living in a topsy turvy world. It's as if the ground has shifted under our feet, leaving a sense of unfamiliarity and instability.

Trusted values and systems seem to have been overtaken by new ways of thinking and different priorities. The rise of populism is the way it's being described in relation to recent political events in UK, Europe and the US. *The people* have spoken. There's no turning back. Whether it's for better or for worse, we'll have to wait and see!

But in the meantime we should remember that we can influence decisions at a national and even global level, by the way we react as individuals at a local level.

As we're beginning to see in the Brexit negotiations, the first challenge is to share conversations, enabling many different voices to be heard and understood.

And then there's the ongoing process of keeping those channels of communication open. The Church of England is not immune from similar pressures – issues of gender and of sexuality are currently the cause of

controversy and hurt. We know from our own experience how difficult it is to be challenged about our own closely held beliefs even within families and communities.

We're living in exciting and changing times, where we have to find new ways of thinking, communicating and acting inclusively.

Maybe it's not so much about *what* we see, but *how* we see it: being able to zoom out from a close-up viewpoint to focus on the wider picture; letting go of closely held views and habits that make us feel comfortable; and being open to the possibility of myriad alternatives.

Maybe we're coming to realise that we've been trying to solve too many of our religious, social, political, and relational issues inside of the very minds that falsely framed the problem in the first place?

And, as Einstein is purported to have said, *no problem can be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it.*

It's about what Jesus called *dying to self*. Or in current jargon – **more over the page...**

# Diocese has 40/40 Lent vision

*re-wiring our egocentric responses.*  
The act of *letting go and letting God* is essentially what prayer is.

The contemplative, God-centred mind can see things in a non-dual way, without being rebellious or enmeshed, without being reactionary or hateful. I'm reminded of the motto of Pope John XXIII - *See everything; overlook a great deal; correct a little.*

This year, rather than producing a traditional, teaching style Lent

course, the Diocese is giving voice to a diversity of experience in a daily devotional called 40 Days / 40 Voices.

Each day in Lent a different person will offer their response to a part of the biblical story charting Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. This will be in the form of a written reflection, poem, story or artwork.

Each day's response will take the form of a daily email and update on the Canterbury Diocese website. There will be an opportunity to join a group in Wye and add your voice to the different voices and shared conversations *on the journey.*

Alternatively join one of the house groups who will be following a Lenten theme. More details to follow.

**Linda Cross**

## An invite to church supper

**T**HIS Easter we are trying something different. On Maundy Thursday evening we are having an Agape supper, at Waltham church.

This is a shared meal with reflections of the last supper, to include communion around the table, just like they did.

Then we have a time of reflection with images, during which we slowly strip the church, then gradually turn off all lights, until we

are in silence and darkness (torches for safe walking are allowed). The meal will start at 7pm and we should be finished by 9.30pm at the latest.

Do join us, we'd love you to come. Please let us know in advance so we can have numbers for catering? For more info or to let us know you're coming. Call: Daphne 01227 700460 or Lorraine 01233 750987

Church services in the Parish Upon The Hills		
5 Mar	1st Sunday	9:30am – all four churches (Elmsted, Hastingleigh, Petham & Waltham) - Communion
12 Mar	2nd Sunday	8am BCP Communion Waltham 10am Messy Church at Bodsham CP School 11am Petham Communion
19 Mar	3rd Sunday	9:30am Waltham Communion 11am Hastingleigh Communion 11am Petham Family Service (no Communion) 5pm Elmsted Choral Evensong
26 Mar	4th Sunday	9:30am Elmsted Communion (with Waltham) 11am Hastingleigh 11am Petham Family Communion with Posies

This month's church flowers and cleaning volunteers:		
St Mary's		St James'
Mar 4	Mrs Morris	Mrs Hursey
Mar 11	Mrs Waters	Mrs Pearce
Mar 18	Mrs Hewes, Mrs Healy	Mrs Healy
Mar 25	Mrs Perez, Mrs French	Mrs Denny

<b>Priest-in-charge:</b> The Rev Ravi Holy: The Vicarage, Wye 01233 812450 ravi.holy@wyebenefice.org.uk <b>Associate priest:</b> The Rev Lorraine Lawrence (with special responsibility for Hastingleigh, Elmsted, Petham, Waltham): The Vicarage, Hastingleigh, 01233 750987 or 07894 4034409 lorraine_lawrence@btinternet.com. <b>Churchwardens:</b> Mrs Bacon 01233 750327, Mrs Ten Hove 01227 700460. <b>United Wye Benefice</b> 01233 813793 www.wyebenefice.org.uk	
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# Cheers for the Bowl

CONGRATULATIONS are in order for landlord Ron and family at the Bowl Inn for being awarded Pub of the Year by the area's Camra branch.

This is the second time the Bowl has won the title since Ron and Ann took over.

Bob Martin, chairman of the Ashford, Folkestone and Romney Marsh Branch of Camra, said: "We gave the award for beer, cider and perry quality as well as a string of other things such as style, décor, cleanliness, service, welcome, atmosphere, and the overall impression.

## Hall on web

**DATES for Evington Village Hall can now be found on a newly launched community website: [www.evingtonhall.org.uk](http://www.evingtonhall.org.uk)**

## Minute taker

**OUR magazine is looking for a new secretary. The role entails one meeting a year to take minutes and a very small amount of administration.**

# Diary Dates

For updates on events at the village hall visit [www.evingtonhall.org.uk](http://www.evingtonhall.org.uk)

1st	Coffee Morning	10.30
	Evington Community Choir	19.00
2nd	Art Group	09.30
	W. I Meeting	19.00
6th	ECP AGM	19.30
7th	Toddler Group	09.30
	Library Van at Hall Car Park	09.45
8th	Evington Community Choir	19.00
9th	Art Group	09.30
	Elmsted Parish Council	19.30
10th	Whist Drive	19.00
14th	Toddler Group	09.30
	Hastingleigh Parish Council	19.45
15th	Evington Community Choir	19.00
16th	Art Group	09.30
18th	Cinque Ports Scribes	09.00
19th	Cinque Ports Scribes	09.00
	Toddler Group	09.30
21st	Library Van at Hall Car Park	09.45
	Evington Gardeners	19.30
22nd	Evington Community Choir	19.00
23rd	Art Group	0930
28th	Toddler Group	09.30
29th	Evington Community Choir	19.00
30th	Art Group	09.30

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# Lorry way down...

**W**E were told to be wary of driving through and camping in the Transkei area of South Africa. "Do not stop unless you really have to" and "never wild camp in the Transkei." These were words spoken by South Africans that we met further north.

I'm not sure if those warnings were warranted, but we were cautious during the few days that we were in this part of the country. But one thing for sure, the Transkei is stunning, wild but stunning.

There is no coast road from Port Edward (the northern boundary of the Transkei), all the way through to East London. This means you have to drive inland to the old capital, Mthatha, and then down to the coast (mostly gravel tracks) where there are a number of camp sites dotted around.

We went from sea level to 4,000 feet, and back to sea level many times in this area. Anyway, we had no issues with security in the end. While talking security,

This episode in the African adventures of Vince and Jac Martin of Hastingleigh sees... a brush with fire and a taste of the winelands

with the exception of perhaps Mali and Mauritania, South Africa is definitely the place in Africa that you are most likely to be robbed (and possibly violently), and we feel least comfortable here (we have heard many, many stories of car jacking, burglary, etc from other South Africans).

Amazingly in peaceful countries like Zambia, Malawi, Uganda etc you always have at least one guard (sometimes many more) at the campsite overnight.

But here in SA, we never see a guard in or at the gates of the campsites. After the "Wild Coast", we stopped in Port Elizabeth and found a lovely campsite about 8km out of town and right on the headland.

We stayed here for a few days, and on our second day we headed into town to find a shopping mall. The first one (the biggest mall in PE) very nearly ended in disaster, as we turned into the mall from the main road, I spotted

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# Long night as wildfire threatens

a height restriction of 2m, and as we are 3.6m tall, that just wasn't going to work! Luckily no one had pulled in behind us and I managed to reverse back though the traffic lights without causing too much chaos.

When we got back to the road just before the campsite there had been a bush fire raging away on the other side of the road.

Luckily, we managed to get through just before they closed the road. All was fine as the strong wind was coming straight in from the sea and so was blowing the bush fire away from the camp.

This continued for another 24 hours, and we were told it was doing a lot of damage to the Nature Reserve on the other side of the road.

That night as we sat down outside cooking our Braai (barbecue), the strong wind suddenly completely stopped, then 10 minutes later, the wind started strongly again - this time it had swung round 180 degrees and suddenly everything was covered in ash and smoke was in the air. We were told to pack everything

away and be ready to drive out at a moment's notice should we get the call. The fire crews arrived, and the flames got closer, much closer...

There were vehicles, fire engines, and other officials driving about with blue lights flashing almost all night, it was difficult to see how close the fire was, all we knew was there was lots of worried campers and fire fighters.

After a sleepless night, we were given the all clear at about 6am, and as we drove out of the campsite we realised how close that fire came to sweeping through the camp (which also contained a large number of thatched roofed holiday rooms), It had crossed the road, and was right up to the hedges and fences by the campsite.

We had been looking forward to the much-hyped Garden Route, from Port Elizabeth to Mossell Bay. In the end we were a little disappointed. It was touristy, pretty in places with lots of coffee shops, and places to spend your money, but after seeing some lovely places on our trip, it was a bit of a let down.

Also everything, from camping to coffee is much more expensive on the Garden Route. We did stay in some nice places along the coast, but also some very nasty large caravan parks that were packed with, sorry folks, pensioners. They arrive from just after the

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# Uncorking delights of local brew

new year and stay until just before Easter as they usually get 40 to 50 per cent reduction during these times (we did not).

Most stay at one caravan park for this whole period, and a lot did not want to talk to us! We did, however, meet some friendly people along this stretch of coastline.

There will be more details of the many places that we stayed on our blog [www.lorrywaydown.com](http://www.lorrywaydown.com).

After leaving the coast at Mossell Bay we headed inland to Swellendam, the third oldest town in South Africa, and the oldest part is quite nice (obviously full of coffee shops, restaurants, and curios).

Here we stayed at a lovely quiet campsite in Bontebok National Park. We had a few hikes, and a swim in the river to cool off.

Swellendam is also the start of the Winelands, these vast areas of vineyards go from here right through to Stellenbosch, and wine is produced here on an industrial scale. We stopped one day for a

coffee at a farm shop (known here as a Padstal). It was owned by a vineyard, in this case Bonnievale, so two bottles were bought.

Later we stopped for lunch at a restaurant just before Worcester, again owned by another vineyard, this time Rooisberg Wines. Guess what? That night we camped at a wine farm... and so it goes on.

We are now camped in the Klein Karoo (Little Karoo), the difference to the winelands couldn't be starker. Here we are at 3,600 feet, it has barely rained for the two years and it's seriously, seriously hot in the sun, though we are only about 50km from the winelands.

We love being back in this arid semi-desert region. It's so much quieter, and on the farm that we are camped at, the birdlife is amazing. Also we are back off the tarmac, on gravel roads, so much more interesting in the truck.

We were warned yesterday by the owner not to go walking during the heat of the day, as there are lots of snakes about at the moment.

Next we are off star-gazing in Sutherland, and then slowly we will make our way north to the Namibian border. Thanks for reading. You can view our blog and photos at [www.lorrywaydown.com](http://www.lorrywaydown.com)

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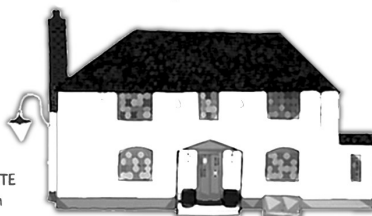


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