

Elmsted with Hast- Community News



*St James the Great
Elmsted*



*St Mary the Virgin
Hastingleigh*

November 2019

40p



Elmsted and Hastingleigh Community Contacts

Elmsted Parish Council

Tracey Block 01233 750415

Hastingleigh Parish Council

Tracey Block 01233 750415

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

Shelley 07401 908249
bookings@evingtonhall.org.uk

Evington Hall Committee Hon Sec

Mrs H French 01233 750483

ECP Hon Sec

Mrs S Boxall 01233 750206

Evington Gardeners Hon Sec

Mrs H Ransley 01233 720152

Evington Community Choir

Mrs C Jeffery 01233 750585

Art Group

Mrs V Kerry 01227 700843

Footpath Walks

Mr D Harris 01233 813711

Women's Institute

Mrs J Bowes 01233 811875

Parent and Toddler Group

Mrs L Lawrence 01233 750987

Neighbourhood Watch Hastingleigh

Mr G Block 01233 750415

Neighbourhood Watch Elmsted

Mr J Argar 01233 750311



November

in Elmsted with Hastingleigh

Autumn is in full force, and it's a wet one! There is an update regarding superfast broadband provision in the area, page 25 gives the details, including a website to register your interest. The meeting last month was most informative.

After 70 years, Evington Players have had their last curtain call (p13). There are a few requests for items and help; a vacuum cleaner (p7), a copy of a History of Hastingleigh (p7), information on the history of war memorial (p11) and items for Christmas bazaar (p18).

The Community News team bid goodbye to Ali, our Advertising Secretary, and wish her well in her new adventures. See page 15 for the new advertising secretary contact information. Please keep your eyes peeled, there has been an attempted theft from the wall safe in the church (p5). 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: advertising.communitynews@gmail.com

Secretary: secretary.communitynews@gmail.com

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

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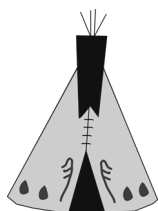
Most aspects of Household and Garden Maintenance

References available

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Hastingleigh with Elmsted Women's Institute

Hastingleigh with Elmsted W.I. met on Thursday the 3rd of October at the Evington Hall. Nineteen members attended.

Our speaker this month was Mrs Mary Smith, and her talk was entitled 'A schoolgirl's war'. Mrs Smith had been the headmistress of Maidstone Grammar School for Girls. In the school archive she had found a war diary that had been kept by a teacher, Miss Keen, who had taught at the school during the Second World War. She was a fabulous artist, and we were shown several of her vivid paintings of life at the school she had produced during that time. Six shelters had been built at the back of the school for pupils and staff to use in the event of an air raid. These were long and narrow, in a zig-zag layout, with enough space in each zig or zag to take a whole class. There was enough room to shelter 740 people – not only were there the Maidstone girls, but also girls from a school in Plumstead who were studying with them. Mrs Smith had such an interesting story to tell, and she spoke of how she'd interviewed some 'Old Girls', and showed us some photos of when these (now) ladies visited the tunnels not so long ago. Another set of trenches has recently been found at the front of the school, and they will be revealing their secrets very soon.

After her talk, we covered several items of business, discussed future events, and our speakers and competitions for next year.

The flower of the month was won by Mrs. Helmer and competition was won by Mrs. James.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday the 1st of November. This will be our Annual Meeting where we will discuss our business and accounts for the year, and afterwards we will have a bring and share supper.

Fiona Steward



Club Draw

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

1st Prize: No. 31

2nd Prize: No: 29

3rd Prize: No: 102

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A SPECIAL TALK IN HASTINGLEIGH CHURCH

TN25 5HN (From a resident of Hastingleigh)

Date for your diary:

**Saturday 16th November 2019 7:00 for 7:30 - FIGHTING
CORRUPTION, A PERSONAL STORY** (by Rt. Hon. Anthony Hooper QC)

Tony Hooper has had a number of high profile cases and recently has spent months in the Ukraine helping them establish a working judicial system.

Please come and bring friends to our church which now has a loo/kitchenette extension and much easier access for the less able and wheelchairs.

All donations will go towards the appeal we launched for this extension. Wine and light refreshments will be served.

Also...**Saturday 7th December 2019** there will be a quiz in Evington Hall, Hastingleigh.

THE APPEAL for ST. MARY'S

Thank you to all who provided food, etc. for the wonderful evening we had listening to Nick Merriman and Maria telling us much about museums. It was a very stimulating talk and having visited The Horniman recently, I know what great public places these are to visit.

The extension is such an asset to the church and the church council would like to thank George Denny who as architect had so many problems to endure, and Michael Barnes who built it to such high standards.

Sadness

Someone has tried to break into the wall safe in the church (which only has a small amount of cash in it – for pencils and postcards, etc.) If you see anyone in the church area you think should not be there, please inform our local policeman Aaron 07929377102.



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‘So they do say...!’

There are stories of people, animals and objects being walled up (immured) many hundreds of years ago in a newly constructed building. This may have been for punishment, to ward off bad luck, or to make the building more sacred.

In the ancient walls of Thornton Abbey, Lincolnshire, an abbot was found behind a wall with a table, book and candlestick. There are even instances of devout monks and nuns volunteering to be immured, in some cases with an orphan child.

Cats too seem to have been popular for this treatment, several having been found in the UK and placed within the walls of ancient buildings as a good luck charm. Under a farmhouse kitchen floor in the Brecon Beacons, a horse's head was discovered buried, placed there hundreds of years ago. In some European countries, it was customary to use the blood from a freshly killed ram, lamb or cockerel to soak into the newly laid brickwork.

TW

Wanted

The Evington Hall is seeking a replacement vacuum cleaner. The current vacuum cleaner is on its last legs so if anyone has one which is in good working order and which is surplus to requirements, the Hall would be happy to give it a new home! Please contact: secretaryevh@gmail.com

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,

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In The Garden

You may think that with the autumn rains and shortening days of November mean that gardening is over for the year. Wrong! The current warmer temperatures with the rain mean that grass still needs cutting if you can catch a dry enough gap for the mower to do its work without clogging.

Leaves falling from deciduous trees will be abundant. Swept and raked up they can make excellent leaf mould – oak, beech and hornbeam break down quite readily; sycamore and acer less so. Gathered together and packed into an open wire meshed cage and then firmed down and left for a year they will have compressed to form a nutritious mould that can then be used directly on the soil of flower borders. The tougher leaves may be better for leaving two years before making useful mulch. Make sure the leaves do not dry out.

If you have a pond, autumn is a good time to clear leaves. Floating debris such as dead plants and leaf litter should also be removed from the pond surface to prevent it sinking to the pond floor and releasing harmful gasses as decomposition sets in. If you have fish they will benefit from an ice-free area to maintain oxygen levels. This can be achieved manually or, if the expense is not a problem a small surface heater that is designed to keep a small area just above freezing can be employed. The fish will have been building up their bodily reserves from late summer and should not be fed high protein food during the winter months.

Hardwood cuttings can be taken before soil temperatures drop too much. Many deciduous shrubs, trees and climbers can be propagated in this way and November cuttings stand a better chance of rooting compared with those taken later in the winter. Forsythia, kerria, weigelia and willow root readily but that remark shouldn't stop you experimenting with anything you fancy propagating, even evergreen plants.

Cut a firm mature stem from this year's growth. Make a sloping cut (to shed rain, they say) above a leaf joint and about 30 cm below, a further cut below a leaf joint. In a shady but not too damp a spot

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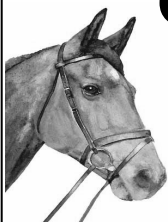
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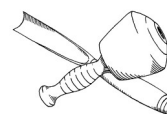
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In The Garden Cont.

prepare a small trench lining the bottom with cutting compost or a mixture of sharp sand and peat. 'Wounding' is simply a matter of removing a 1cm-long sliver of wood from the base of the cutting and dusting with hormone rooting powder before insertion. Place the bottom of the cutting on the trench surface and then back fill firmly leaving about 10 cm above the soil surface. With evergreens leave the top three or four pairs of leaves exposed. Cuttings should root within twelve months and once rooted they may be potted up or planted out. Good luck!

Aquadulce Claudia is a favourite broad bean for autumn sowing and I shall be starting mine off in the greenhouse, or you could do it on a warm window sill, in small pots, one seed per pot. They are naturally somewhat slow to germinate and can take 12 – 24 days before the first leaves appear. Once they are growing strongly I harden them off before planting out in their bed where they will reliably produce some of the earliest vegetables for the kitchen. This way is safest. I never sow the seeds direct into the ground for the clever mice can smell them and produce an accurate hole above each seed before burrowing down for a feast!

Fred

The War Memorial

Hastingleigh Parish Council is researching the history of the War Memorial. We have information about the men of Hastingleigh and Elmsted who are commemorated, but it is hard to find out when it was built, who designed it, who paid for it, and so on. We would like to have this detail documented.

Please contact me if you can help.

Thank you.

Kate Day

01233 750495 or

kateday80@hotmail.com

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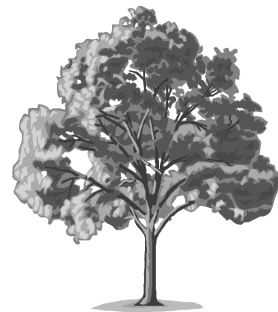
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Evington Players

It is with much sadness that after 70 years of entertaining the residents of our villages, Evington Players have decided that they have to finally “drop the curtain”. Many villagers will have their favourite memories of locals treading the boards, but for those of you less familiar and not sure on what you may have missed here is a brief history.

The Players were formed in 1949 with the purpose of raising funds for a new village hall and entertaining the local villages and put on their first production, in the Parish Room Tamley Lane, of Cinderella on 2nd 3rd 4th January 1950. This was then followed by a further 66 productions up to 2014.

By 1960 the new Village Hall was ready to host its first production by the Players. The following year in the production of “We Took a Cottage”, Michael Bowes proposed to Jean on stage.

The Hall was extended in 1976 to allow the permanent stage to be installed and many productions followed. These early dates and recollections come from Robin Helmer who has had an involvement from the start and was instrumental in helping to get so many people together for a 60th Anniversary Celebration back in 2009 where a few original members attended.

My involvement started in the early to mid 90's when the Players were putting on 2 productions a year with audiences of 40-50 on a Thursday night, 60 on a Friday and maybe 70 on a Saturday, all treated to a cup of tea and a biscuit in the interval and the obligatory raffle every night.

As we reached the 2000's, thanks to Sue Boxall, some of the Doctors from Wye Surgery started to get involved and ticket sales started to go mad with locals loving the opportunity to see their local Doctors “letting their hair down”. During this time we started to produce mainly comedies and farces to give everyone a laugh.

With this increase in sales we went to putting on productions for 4 nights and giving around £1000 per production to charity.

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Evington Players cont.

The final major production was 'Allo 'Allo in 2007. Dr Fox played Rene Artois and it ran for 5 nights with the hall packed with 120 people a night and we were forced to open the doors to the dress rehearsal as so many people wanted tickets. This saw 80 people come along and donate to charity.

Since then we have had a number of "false starts" , but it appears times have changed and people are finding it difficult to commit to the hard work of rehearsals.

I would like to end by saying a huge thank you to all the people who have acted, supported back stage, run the raffles (Pat Homer), and made and served teas over the years, but more importantly to the audiences who came along and laughed at us and sometimes with us as someone else failed to enter the stage!!

Paul Boxall (Chairman)

Thank You Ali

Over the last few years, Ali Shepherd has done a wonderful job of contacting and chasing our local companies and tradespeople in order to bring you the core information in this magazine: the advertisements. We are enormously grateful to her for all the effort she has put in so that we can offer you such a wide and varied range of useful contacts and services. But because of family commitments, Ali is having to give up the post of Advertising Secretary; so we want to thank her for all her hard work and wish her lots of luck with this new episode in the Shepherd family's life!

Our Magazine Secretary, Marie Wenham, has kindly offered to take on Ali's role and, to simplify things for her, has created a new email address for advertising matters. So if you wish to contact us regarding advertising, please do so at: advertising.communitynews@gmail.com



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Evington Gardeners

During the summer, the Evington gardeners took time out from their horticultural activities to visit a couple of local gardens.

The first visit, in July, was to Pheasant Barn, Oare, near Faversham and the second visit in September, was to The Orangery, Mystole, both beautiful gardens and well worth a visit.

For our October meeting, Barbara welcomed all the gardeners back from the summer break, and introduced the speaker, Ms Katherine Hook, with a talk entitled "All Things Sloe Gin and Chocolate." Originating from a farming background, Ms Hook, with her sense of fun and adventure, decided to experiment combining two of her passions, and subsequently formed Sloe Seduction, a cottage industry run from her kitchen, producing a range of products involving sloe gin and chocolate. Most of her business is from September through to December, for the Christmas market, and a short period running up to Easter, and her products are found in Farmers markets and fairs, although she can supply her products for events by request. Her range of products include chocolate spheres filled with sloe gin flavoured truffle or sloe gin, wrapped in blue or red foil, which are simply packaged in cellophane bags, little tubs or chocolate shells of sloe gin mousse and Sloe Slider, a chocolate and sloe gin sauce for cakes and puddings. We were offered a truffle to taste, which was delicious, of course.

In the autumn, the sloes are picked in vast quantities and kept in the freezer until required. This splits the skins but they need to be well drained before use. The gin is good quality and bought from local supermarkets. Although she makes 60-80 litres unfortunately, she is unable to sell her sloe gin as it all goes into the making of her chocolates.

The talk was entertaining and included some interesting facts and tips. Sloe gin was invented by Italian monks in the C11th, then more famously, by the Dutch in the C16th. Cocoa is only produced in the equatorial areas of the planet, and can only be picked by hand as the plants cannot be accessed by machinery. Each pod, which grows straight out from the trunk, contains 30-40 beans, which explains why good quality chocolate is expensive. Another useful tip: - Never rush making chocolate, it is best melted overnight over warm air.

When not in her kitchen, producing 900 chocolates in 5 hours, Katherine's hobby is classic motor bikes!

The next meeting is on 19th November, with a talk entitled Floral Clocks.



Evington Village Hall Committee

Charity No. 302758

COFFEE MORNING

Wednesday 6th November

10.30am

Evington Village Hall
Hastingleigh

Raffle & Cakes

Please bring along any suitable gifts/items
that can be sold at the Christmas Bazaar.

If you are unable to attend the coffee
morning, items can be given to anyone on
the Hall Committee or phone

Kate Day 01233 750495

Sue Lawson 750288



**Evington Village Hall
Committee**

Charity Nos. 302758

**CHRISTMAS
BAZAAR**

Saturday 30th November
2pm
Evington Village Hall
Hastingleigh

Tombola, Raffle, Gifts,
Cakes, Games & lots more!

Meet Father Christmas
in his Grotto



Church services in the Parish Upon The Hills		
03/11	First Sunday	09:30 – Hastingleigh - Group service for Elmsted, Hastingleigh, Petham & Waltham (Includes blessing of the new kitchen and facilities)
10/11	Remembrance Sunday	War memorial services at 10:50 - Hastingleigh & Elmsted – service continues at Evington Hall Petham - service continues at church Waltham - service continues at church
17/11	Third Sunday	09:30 Waltham Communion 11:00 Hastingleigh Communion BCP 11:00 Petham Family Service (No Communion) 17.00 Elmsted Choral Evensong
24/11	Fourth Sunday	11:00 Hastingleigh Communion 11:00 Petham Family Communion

This month's church flowers and cleaning volunteers:		
	St Mary's	St James'
Oct 26th	Dr & Mrs Lawson	Mrs Fox
Nov 2nd	Mrs Day	Mrs Leutner
Nov 9th	Mrs Bacon, Mrs Hill	Mrs Green
Nov 16th	Mrs Geering, Mrs Sharp	Mrs Calcutt
Nov 23rd	Mrs Young	Mrs MacFarlane
Nov 30th	Mrs Jerrom	Mrs Hewson

REMINDER

Elmsted Church will be having their annual clean up on Saturday 23rd November. We would welcome any help for as little or as long as you can spare! Pop in whenever is convenient to you during the morning. Grateful thanks.

Diary Dates - November

Tues	5th	Toddler Group	09.30 - 12.00
Wed	6th	Coffee Morning	10.30 - 11.30
		Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00
Thurs	7th	W.I. Meeting	19.30 - 22.00
Fri	8th	Whist Drive	19.00 - 22.00
Sun	10th	Remembrance (Memorial)	10.50
		Footpath Group (Hall)	14.00
Tues	12th	Toddler Group	09.30 - 12.00
		Library Van	09.45 - 10.15
		Hastingleigh PC Meeting	19.45 - 21.00
Wed	13th	Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00
Sat	16th	Talk (Church)	19.00
Tues	19th	Toddler Group	09.30 - 12.00
		Evington Gardeners	19.30 - 21.30
Wed	20th	Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00
Sat	23rd	Film Night	15.30 - 22.30
Tues	26th	Toddler Group	09.30 - 12.00
		Library Van	09.45 - 10.15
Wed	27th	Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00
Sat	30th	CHRISTMAS BAZAAR	14.00 - 16.30

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

All events at the village hall unless otherwise stated

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
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school will be held on:**

**Thursday 28th November 1.30pm
Wednesday 8th January 2020 1.30pm**

**Please notify the office if you would like to
come along.**

Individual tours can also be arranged!

**Telephone 01233 750374
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Executive Head teacher - Mr P. Newton

ecp PRESENTS

A Double Film Show

SATURDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2019

EVINGTON VILLAGE HALL

4.00 pm - A Family Film

7.00 pm - A Comedy Drama

Entry Free

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

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

To find out more and / or to make a reservation, please contact Robin Helmer on 01233 750236 or email: robin.helmer@btinternet.com

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Ultrafast fibre broadband

Following a public meeting on October 10, a volunteer group – Hastingleigh and Neighbours Network Development (HANND) – is assessing interest in ultrafast fibre broadband for homes and businesses connected to the Elmsted exchange.

We aim:

- To use public grants to fund the infrastructure entirely
- To ensure that every property and business on the Elmsted exchange (phone numbers starting 750) has access to the fastest internet possible (speeds of up to 330Mbps initially with 1 gigabit likely in the future)
- To provide information to everybody wanting faster broadband

How much will this cost?

The cost of the infrastructure could be up to £250,000 and we hope that this can be entirely funded through grant schemes. Every household will be eligible for £2,500 in vouchers from central government and Kent County Council to put towards the cost of the infrastructure. Businesses will be eligible for £3,500 of central government funding. If sufficient numbers sign up, then the upgrade may well not cost individuals or businesses anything beyond the usual monthly bill from your broadband provider.

How long will it take?

We estimate that the project will take about 18 months from first registrations of interest to going live.

What happens now?

We will deliver information on the project to every household and business eligible to join over the coming weeks. We need a high level of involvement to achieve 100% public funding and so are gathering the addresses of all those interested before asking Openreach to quote for the work.

What can I do now?

We've set up a website (which is still under construction) at www.hannd.org where you can register your interest. There is no obligation at this stage and registration will not cost you anything. The website will be updated with lots more information about the project shortly. You can also email us info@hannd.org.

We will provide further updates in the weeks ahead.



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Wye PPG - Online Services

In July, NHS England together with Ipsos MORI published the latest official statistics from the GP Patient Survey. This showed that only 40.6% of patients were aware that they could order repeat prescriptions online. Disturbingly, only 15.4% of patients were aware that they could access their test results and medical records online.

To register for online access you first need to visit the surgery with photo ID and fill out an application form. You will be given a Linkage Key and an Account ID. At home, log on to www.patientaccess.com and enter your details, including the Linkage Key and the Account ID. You will be able to create your own password and complete the registration process.

Online access will be through the www.patientaccess.com website. Once registered, you can order prescriptions on line and access your test results and medical records. Other benefits include:-

- * Improved communication between patients and practices:
- * Reduced travel for patients:
- * Expanded health knowledge for patients:
- * Increased ability for patients to make informed decisions:
- * Increased operational efficiencies for practices: and
- * Increased patient satisfaction

As well as the convenience of ordering repeat prescriptions online, a very important advantage of registration is that you will have the option (if you wish) to allow family and friends to have partial or total access to your account, enabling them to assist with repeat prescriptions and/or have access to your medical records. In turn family and friends (children, relatives and others for whom you care) will have the option to allow you to have access to all or part of their online accounts. Permission to allow access lies with the patient, of course.

The right of patients to seek access to their medical records is governed by data protection law. It is the GP's responsibility to make sure the record is accurate and access to the record may be limited where the record contains data that could, in the opinion of the GP, be seriously harmful to the patient if they saw it, or where it contains confidential information about a third party.

Judith Timms
PPG Chair.

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Farming Notebook

A is for apple, B is for beans, beef and beetroot....The theme for the harvest festival at Upper Hardres this year was to go through the alphabet and name all foods that can be found locally, either in the wild or grown on farms. By the time we had got to Z is for zucchini there were all the ingredients for a very healthy and varied diet. All grown on our doorstep with few or no food miles to boot.

The media is full of column inches reporting on our carbon footprint on the planet and demanding that the government act to save the world. Certainly, there are things that the government could do in terms of legislation, but I suggest that we should all look closer to home and see what we can all do to help the situation. Perhaps we could turn the heating down a few degrees and wear a pullover if it gets chilly – why do we need to walk round in a tee shirt in the middle of winter? (This too applies to schools and offices which to me, always seem stiflingly hot and not a jumper in sight...). Perhaps I could train the dog to shut the back door when he opens it to come inside! Perhaps we could look to buy local foods. By spending a few moments looking at the label of the fresh foods in our shopping baskets can have a real impact on food miles and the resulting carbon footprint. If not Kentish, at least choose British. Buy a seasonal cabbage from Lincolnshire instead of Peruvian asparagus or French beans from Kenya in November. Use the local farm shops, full of Kentish foods from apple juice to beef, broccoli, eggs, lamb, milk, sprouts through to yogurt. The seasonality of foods is great. And yet the supermarkets demand that suppliers have sprouts and strawberries available on the shelf for 365 days of the year or they will lose their contract. Why? Out of season these fruits and vegetables have to be sourced from other parts of the world, and often air-freighted in. Crazy.

Here on the farm, after a prolonged hot and dry spell in August and September, the weather broke on the day of the East Kent ploughing match. We needed the rain and it was very welcome. It saved the early planted oilseed rape and grass seed crops. It is still raining nearly a month later and autumn plantings have been a real stop-go affair. Fortunately, it was decided not to cultivate the stubbles after harvest. This has allowed us to create a seedbed directly in front of the drill. We have been able to take advantage of a day here and a day there to get some of the winter wheat

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Farming Notebook Cont.

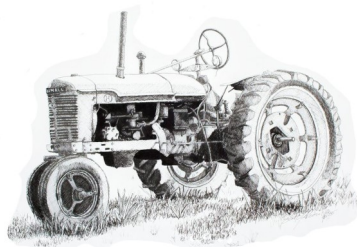
planted. So far this autumn we have only had a couple of occasions when we have had more than 24 hours between showers or heavier rain. It is frustrating, but the soils are still warm, and there is plenty of moisture!! In terms of timing, there are still a few weeks before yields will start to suffer due to late planting. The forecast looks a little better for next week, so fingers crossed...

All the yards are now ready for the cattle to come inside. They are making such a mess of the pasture around their feeders. In the next few days we will bring all the cattle home and sort them out. Some of the calves will be weaned as their mums are due to calve in 6-8 weeks time. Once back home we will arrange for the vet to come and PD (pregnancy diagnose) the cows.

We have been creep feeding the calves all summer. This involves filling a hopper with food which can only be accessed by the calves. They can help themselves to a little snack at any time they like. They certainly have grown very well. Because they are all from a Hereford bull, all the calves have white faces and white socks so it will be easy to make up nice matching pens of animals for the Ashford Market store cattle sales later in the autumn. Although the creep feeder is designed for calves only, this morning we went out to fill the hopper with food only to find a cow helping itself! The cow has learnt to get down on its knees and wriggle as far through the bars as it can possibly get, and then with a proboscis like tongue just manages to flick some corn out of the feed trough onto the floor for a little feast. Very clever...

Once the cattle come inside it really is a sign that the seasons are moving on and winter is not far away. We still have a lot to do, but as in most years, it will all get done. But not today. R is for Rain....

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