Elmsted with Hastingleigh Community News



St James the Great Elmsted



St Mary the Virgin Hastingleigh

February 2017

40p

February

in Elmsted with Hastingleigh

real EBRUARY is an unloved month. We don't like its weather or its distance from Spring. We wish it away, thankful that it is the shortest month, although it doesn't always feel that way.

So it is with a warm heart that one sees our community carry on with its clubs and societies despite this drab time of year on the North Downs.

The walkers will still stride out, the village hall fill with chatter (and the smell of fish and chips) and the churches continue to be cleaned and decorated with flowers.

And we mustn't forget two of our oldest and warmest social centres: our pubs. February is a harsh month for them, too.

We are lucky to have two fine examples in our community of a great English tradition: where the fires are always burning. As community assets they need our support in this harsh economic climate. Stay warm.

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. Or write to The Secretary, Beddlestone Grange, Hampton Lane, Brook, TN25 5PN. Advertising queries to: shepandali@hotmail.com

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Thanks to all from the Hall Committee

THE Christmas Bazaar held at the end of November raised £892.65 for the Evington Hall funds.

The committee would like to thank everyone who helped by donating items for the stalls and helping on the day.

Thanks also to Father Christmas and his elves who helped create a wonderfully festive atmosphere on the decorated stage. This year the annual Christmas Concert presented by Trevor Wye and his studio players was held in the hall followed by supper.

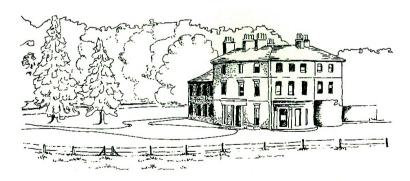
Thank you to everyone who helped to make the event an enjoyable and successful one, raising £502 shared equally between the hall and St Mary The Virgin Church, Hastingleigh.

Another thank you to The Bowl Inn for the kind donation of £150 - the proceeds from "Carols at The Bowl".

The money all helps to improve the facilities at the village hall.

In next month's issue we hope to report on a successful Jumble Sale – our other major fund raising event of the year.

SB



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Seven and dog walk in winter sun

Seven people and one dog set off from the village hall on a beautiful sunny winter's day on Dec 11. It was hard to imagine it was only two weeks to Christmas.

We started towards the pond then down towards the playing field and across the field at the back of Beckets Close where we saw three dandelions in bloom.

We went through the wood and crossed the Waltham Road where we were joined by another walker and continued on past Little Coombe, turning right along the byway, reaching Hassell Street where we turned left and took to the field just past Stone Cottage.

At the bottom we rejoined the road and turned left at the footpath that edges the wood, pausing to admire the beautiful view along the Crundale Valley.

We continued along the path past Zig-Zag Farm where we saw a spindle tree covered in bright pink berries.

Making our way back towards Hastingleigh one of the walkers left the group and the remainder joined the road and followed the footpath beside the road back to the hall.

The December walk was usually led by Avis Ball and we followed the route used by her to honour her memory.

Val Kerry

See overleaf for a report of our Mince Pie Walk – New Year's Day...

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New Year heralds fog and drizzle

On the way to the hall, having driven through thick fog and drizzle, we did wonder if anyone would come!

However, as always, the stalwarts were there and some new faces. Fourteen intrepids decided that they would not be daunted by some miserable January weather.

So off we set, leaving Evington Hall and turning right onto the track past the May Day field and then on through the little wood and continued by crossing the Waltham Road.

With the weather deteriorating it was decided to go to Staple Lees and review. This was handy for Barbara as it gave her a chance to get her sticks which she had forgotten. Seeing Barbara stride out to get home and then rejoin the party made us realise how fit she is!

Not surprisingly, with the rain dripping down our necks, the decision was then taken to return via the Wye Road and head back to the hall, where we were welcomed with mulled wine and lots of mince pies. This made an extremely convivial end to our traditional New Year's Day walk.

Our thanks go to Janet and Yvonne who organised the refreshments and, of course, to everyone who brought along mince pies! Do

> not forget the second Sunday monthly walks. The February 12th one will be led by Hilary and start from the Kingswood car park on the Challock road at around 2.15pm.

> We will be meeting at 2pm at the hall as usual for car sharing. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Derek Harris



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Lorry way down...

ELL it's been a while since we last wrote for the Community News, and we have certainly covered some miles since then. We crossed into Zambia from Malawi and headed for South Luwanga National park for four nights and again, loved this place.

Then it was the long drive to the capital Lusaka, where we had a small fuel leak sorted, and stocked up on supplies.

From here we then headed to Livingstone at Victoria Falls, where we met an English couple, Scott and Helene, who were travelling in a newish Landrover Defender, and had been in southern African for about two years. It turns out that they had been resident on this campsite for several weeks, while their Defender was rebuilt.

This included a second-hand replacement chassis, and most of the body panels replaced, a new gearbox and an engine rebuild along the way! I have alway had a soft spot for Landrovers, but if I ever buy

This episode in the African adventures of Vince and Jac Martin of Hastingleigh sees... awful roads lead to a Christmas destination

one please shoot me. Their "trusty" vehicle has been renamed "Triggers Broom", after the Only Fools and Horses TV show. But we had a great few days with our fellow Brits, exchanging travel tales and stop-over tips.

Leaving Livingstone and heading across to Botswana the obvious choice is using the Kasungula Ferry, but when we got to near the turning to the ferry the queue was horrendous, at least 10 kilometres long!

This is only a small ferry and whilst we could have jumped to the front of the queue (as a tourist vehicle this is accepted), we decided to look at other options.

In the end we went for the much longer route via the Caprivi Strip in Namibia.

As soon as we passed the turning (and the queue of trucks) to the ferry, we realised why the ferry is the popular route: the "road" was shocking. Tarmac roads are wonderful, but as we

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know in the UK if they are not maintained they become very bad.

This 100km stretch had been asphalted many years ago (probably by the Chinese), and had received no maintenance. In places we drove off the road for 5-10km at a time, as the dirt was a far better and safer option.

There is a reason that in Namibia the vast majority of roads are gravel and not tarmac - they are cheap and easy to maintain, you just drive a scraper over it once every few months!

Eventually we got to the border, and after a brief argument and a stand off with a customs official, that refused to stamp our Carnet de Passage, we were into Namibia.

We left Namibia without issue, but as we left "No Mans Land" at this small border post we noticed that there were signs prohibiting the importation of any uncooked meat, dairy or vegetables into Botswana. Oh bugger! We had just stocked up our fridge and freezer in Livingstone's finest superstore.

After completing our paperwork, immigration, customs, and road accident fund (3rd party insurance) we left the tiny shack and had to walk through the "foot and mouth mat".

Jac was told to go one way (out of the border area), and I had to go and get the truck. Of course as I approached the barrier we were stopped by an official who wanted to inspect the inside of the truck. Here goes all our meat etc.

After a couple of minutes chat with the guy in the back of Colonel K (mostly about Premier League football), the obvious question was asked, "do you have a fridge?" As I opened the fridge staring back at me was a carton of milk, half a dozen eggs, two packs of bacon, trays of nicely chilled vegetables, and two huge sirloin steaks!

"Do you have any meat, dairy or vegetables in your vehicle," asked the official as he bent down to look in the fridge. At this point I wasn't sure if he was joking, trying to trap me (and so initiate a huge fine), or he just was plain stupid.

So I decided to play along. "No, of course we don't have any of those things." He replied: "Ok, you can proceed." He was plain stupid, and more than a little lazy.

Eventually we got to our destination for Christmas and New Year, this was on a tiny farm near Hilton (about 60 miles inland from Durban). This farm is owned by Sandy Le Roux's (ex-Hastingleigh resident) parents. It's in a beautiful area with stunning views.

We hope you all had a great Christmas and wish you all the best for 2017. Thanks for reading, Vince and Jag Martin.

You can view our blog and lots of photos at www.lorrywaydown.com

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Queen's thanks for birthday flowers

THE flower festival held in St Mary the Virgin Church last summer has received the royal seal of approval.

Hastingleigh resident Mrs Roz Bacon was sent the following letter from the palace:

Dear Mrs Bacon.

The Queen wishes me to thank you for your letter in which you tell of the flower festival held at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, in Hastingleigh, in celebration of Her Majesty's birthday.

The Queen was pleased to see the beautiful photographs you enclosed and Her Majesty greatly appreciated the kind message you have sent on behalf of all those involved in this special event.

The Queen has been deeply moved by the wonderful responses to her milestone birthday, and hopes that you will understand that, because of the overwhelming number of messages received, it has not been possible to reply to you until now.

I am to thank you very much once again for your kind thought for Her Majesty at this time.

Yours sincerely, Philippa de Pass Lady-in-Waiting



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The Parish upon the Hills

O, Christmas is over for another year, the decorations are all, or mostly, put away, apart from that random item that one always seems to find, just after you've put them all back in the loft, or the garage, or some other inaccessible place!

Hopefully, you saw the New Year in, in style, whether with family and or friends, or out and about.

Maybe, like me, you fell asleep during the evening in 2016, and woke up in the morning in 2017!

We've even had enough snow to make the children among us happy. So, the season is passing with familiar comfortable style to not cause us to stop and pause. Did you make a New Year's resolution? Have you broken it yet?

Most of us mean to keep them, or why make them in the first place?

But life gets in the way, temptation beckons, or we forget we weren't meant to be doing/ eating/being that, and 'oh dear', we've blown it. If we're not careful, being a Christian can be a bit like a New Year's resolution — we mean to spend more time at prayer, more time reading our bible, more time praying.

Or we mean to go to church more regularly, or start going in the first place.

This, I'm afraid, is the reality of human nature. How does that old saying go? The road to hell is paved with good intentions!

Well, I don't want anyone to go to hell (assuming there is one), and I think we make life too difficult for ourselves, almost condemning us to failure before we start.

Changing anything is not impossible, but it can be extremely hard, so why not not try something different?

Don't change who you are, don't change what you do. We are assured that God loves us and uses us just the way we are.

Try looking with different eyes! If somebody hurts us, wonder what's hurting them?

If someone is rude, respond with kindness whilst wondering what is making them feel sooooo angry. Chances are it's not you.

New Year resolutions

Get a glass where the first half looks much fuller than the second, then it will always seem half full.

Share your pains with a friend, they might be looking for someone to share theirs with too. You can support each other.

In other words, don't set your self up to fail, resolve to see things

in a new light, or wear rose-tinted glasses; they put a better resolution on everything!

I'm not suggesting life's a bed of roses, we will all spend our share of time feeling more like we're wallowing in the manure round the base.

But as Oscar Wilde once said, "We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars."

Happy New Year to all, and the Lord's blessing on all your endeavours.

Lorraine x

Hastingleigh with Elmsted W.I.



Minutes from October's meeting

UR Christmas meeting was held at the Halfway House in Challock. Twelve members attended for a lovely meal and lots of chat.

Our first meeting of the year was held at the Evington Hall on January 7. Thirteen members attended.

The competition winners for 2016 were announced. The overall winner of the flower of the month was Mrs Bowes, and the joint winners of the competition of the month were Mrs Bowes and Mrs

George. We discussed a few items of business, and then our speaker was introduced. He was Colin Garner, shop manager of Hotter Shoes in Canterbury. It is a British company that started in 1959.

Our next meeting will be on February 2 at 7.30 p.m. when our speaker will be Cliona Kilroy, and the subject will be 'My life as an auctioneer'. Any new members would be made most welcome.

Fiona Steward

Church services in the Parish Upon The Hills

5 Feb	9:30 Elmsted – all 4 Churches (Elmsted, Hastingleigh, Petham & Waltham) - Communion
12 Feb	10:00 Messy Church Bodsham School
19 Feb	11:00 Communion Hastingleigh 5:00 PM Elmsted choral Evensong
26 Feb	9:30 Elmsted Communion 11:00 Hastingleigh BCP Communion

This month's church flowers and cleaning volunteers: St Mary's St James'

Feb 4 th Feb 11 th	Mrs Bacon Mrs Geering Mrs Sharp	Mrs Wright Mrs Thrupp
Feb 18 th	Dr & Mrs Lawson	Mrs Browning
Feb 25 th	Mrs Day	Mrs Jeffrey

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 4034409 lorraine_lawrence@btinternet.com. **Churchwardens**: Mrs Bacon 01233 750327, Mrs Ten Hove 01227 700460. **United Wye Benefice** 01233 813793 www.wyebenefice.org.uk

Diary dates

Toddlers every Tues morning.(no toddler group 14th Feb).

Singing every Wed evening (no singing group 15 Feb).

Art group every Thurs morning.

Feb 1 Coffee morning 10.30 - 11.30

Feb 2 WI 7 - 10pm

Feb 10 Whist Drive 7pm

Feb 11 Film Night, see right for various timings.

Feb 12 Walking Group 2pm

Feb 14 Hastingleigh PC 7.45pm

Feb 18 Quiz Night in aid of St Mary the Virgin

Feb 21 Gardeners 7.30pm

All dates at Evington Hall unless stated.

Your subs are due

THE annual subscriptions for the Community News is due and they are still only £4!

Pop your payment in the envelope provided by your distributor and return it quickly as possible. Your support is appreciated.

Double bill from ECP

ECP presents a Double Film Show at the Evington Hall on Saturday Feb 11.

4.15pm - A Modern Animated Family Film - Cert U

5.45pm - Fish and Chips etc available for afternoon viewers.

6.45pm - Fish and Chips etc available for evening viewers.

8.15pm - A Modern Comedy, Crime Thriller Film - Cert 15. For more information and to reserve a place contact Robin Helmer: 01233 750236, Robin.Helmer@btinternet.com

Help wanted

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

Library times

THE Mobile Library comes on alternate Tuesdays, from 9.45am to 10.15am outside Evington Village Hall. Wye Library is open Tue 9am to 1pm; Thurs 2pm to 6pm; Fri 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm; Sat 9am to 1pm.

Bottle tops for charity

ALAN and Elisabeth Ramsey are still collecting plastic milk bottle tops for charity.

The tops are re-cycled into children's play equipment for the Springboard Project.

This is a community-based charity that provides inclusive play and leisure opportunities for families with young children and fun short breaks for children and teenagers with disabilities.

Springboard Houses are open as drop-in centres for any family to bring their children and enjoy play facilities during the week.

The centres are accessible with ceiling hoists and changing facilities and lifts.

The Springboard Project welcomes children and young people with or without disabilities and their families for play and social opportunities.

They are collecting them at the request of their granddaughter, Ruby Ramsay, aged 8,

Please join in, and deliver to Elisabeth or Alan or leave at 9, Scotton Street (posting is not cost -effective).

Many thanks. Alan Ramsay: 01233 813730.

February

THE Roman month Februaris was named after the Latin word februum, which means purification after the festival of Februa (held on the full moon of February 15) in the old Roman calendar.

January and February were the last two months to be added to the Roman calendar: the Romans originally considered winter a monthless period. They were added in 713 BC.

Historical names for February include the Old English terms Solmonath (mud month) and Kalemonath (named for cabbage).

Having only 28 days in common years, it is the only month of the year that can pass without a single full moon. This last happened in 1999 and will next happen in 2018.

Last year the provisional UK mean temperature was 3.9 °C, which is 0.2 °C above the 1981-2010 long-term average.

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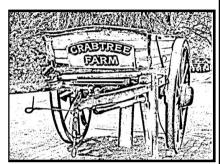
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Coughs and sneezes...

HILE we GPs would like to make everything better for all our patients, there are some things that we cannot do. So please be aware of the following: **Dental problems:** GPs have no more training in dental conditions than an accountant and have no medical indemnity should we attempt to treat dental conditions. Fungal nails: Fungal nails are a harmless cosmetic problem. They are impossibly difficult to treat. Treatment takes years and the oral drugs used are highly toxic, do not take them. Vicks vapour rub is as effective as the over the counter anti-fungal lacquer.

Warts: These can be painful and unsightly but they don't need GP intervention. They are difficult to treat but over the counter Salactol and duct tape is as effective as any treatment. File the wart flat and treat daily, then cover with tape. **Medication**: 5% of GP telephone consultations are because patients have run out of medication. This is not sustainable given the pressures on General Practice. We will issue a one week only prescription to those who phone us, so please find a system that works for you in keeping medical supplies in stock.

Sick notes: If you are unwell at home, it is illegal for an employer to insist on a sick note from a medical practitioner for the first week. However hospitals are now obliged to issue you with a sick note to cover the entire period of your illness and expected recovery.

Rather than booking an appointment, help us by picking up a standard employer letter from reception pointing their obligations.

Colds and trivial illness: We all know by now, surely, that colds do not respond to antibiotics. Yet still we have people who come asking for antibiotics to be well for X. They will not make you better faster.

Cough: Not necessarily a chest infection. We get a cough with almost every cold or other virus.

It can last up to three weeks and you will produce excess sputum. Now I can understand those with lung disease contacting us, also those with significant other health problems, immune suppression through chemotherapy or immune modulation therapy.

But if you are normally fit and well you do not need to see a doctor about a cough.

The other problem with attending with trivial illness, apart from it being an unnecessary appointment, is that you spread illness further, to staff and patients. I hope you stay well this winter.

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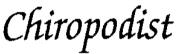
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Was old manor claimed by fire?

S you go up the lane from Elmsted telephone exchange towards Elmsted and its church, you come to a sharp left hand bend. There in front of you is an overgrown chalk pit.

The high land at its top is where Helchin House was once located. It had a commanding view of the roads to Kingsmill, Hastingleigh, Bodsham and Dean Farm. It also overlooked the old Honywood estate where the Pottery is now.

We know this from the Andrews & Dury map surveyed in 1769 which showed a group of buildings in this high position. There is a property adjacent the Helchin site today called High Lodge.

George Denny the present owner says that 66 years ago his late mother changed the name from Elchin Lodge to High Lodge without realising that doing so may have damaged an ancient name and would not have done so had she known.

George was always clear that Helchin House stood on the bank along from them, where the old map shows it.

He confirms that there was no trace of it when they moved to Elchin Lodge in 1950 and have never found or seen anything since.

In December 2000 the late Arthur Marsh (a local historian) spoke about his knowledge of Helchin House.

He said that John Argar's grandmother, Mrs Argar, had told him that her great grandmother had worked in Helchin House, was given a teapot and that the house burnt down.

Arthur Marsh's father told the same story. The Argar family have been in Elmsted since at least the 1700s.

Arthur kept referring to the timber house out on the ridge close to today's High Lodge (perhaps a stable or lodge to the big house). Arthur seemed to think that Helchin House was a Tudor mansion.

The first written mention of it was in the will of John Dunkyn of 1576 when he bequeathed, "my principle mansion house and [other] houses called Helchinge and the lands and woodland in Elmsted".

By 1642 Sir John Honywood,

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Helchin's knight and baronet

knight of Elmsted owned it. He sold it to the Kingsley family of Ickham, Kent. It was noted then to be, "a farme called Helchinge of 70 acres in Elmsted".

In 1724 George Kingsley sold it to Sir William Honywood, 2nd bt. of Evington.

The 'inge' part of a name comes from the Saxon 'inga(s)' which means 'people of, or belonging to'. Whether a Helchinge tribe lived in this area is not known.

Other local 'inge' names include, Podlinge, Bavinge, Ittinge, Lyminge Pedlinge and Eggringe Wood (the wood of the men of Egdar).

On 8 Sep 1756, this advert appeared in the Kentish Post: "To be LETT in the Parish of Elmstead, HELCHIN House; containing four Rooms of a Floor, with Cellars, Garrets, Closets, &c. with a Brewhouse, Bake-house, Well-house, Stable and Coach-House, a Pidgeon -House, a Hay-loft over the Stable, a

Green Court before the Hall Door, a Kitchen Garden, a large Orchard, with 20 or 30 Acres of Arable, Meadow and Pasture Land if requir'd; in the Occupation of Richard Lushington.

For further Particulars inquire at the said House, or of John Lushington of Elmstead-Court."

Hasted in his History of Kent said, "... the church stands on a hill in the middle [of Elmsted] and at a small distance westwards, [is] Helchin-house, belonging to Sir John Honywood [3rd bt., 1709-1781], but now and for some time past inhabited by the Lushingtons.

Lower down in the bottom is Evington-court, a good house of brick and sashed, to which the present Sir John Honywood has added much, and laid out the park-grounds round it." (1st edition, vol iii, page 311).

The 1789 engineers' field drawings of the first OS map did not show any of the Helchin buildings that were on the Andrew & Dury 1769 map.

It appears therefore that between the A&D survey of 1769 and the OS engineers' survey of 1789, Helchin House ceased to exist and that in all probability it burnt down.

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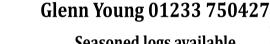




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Community Contacts

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Evington Hall Committee Hon Sec EVP Hon Sec Evington Gardeners Hon Sec Evington Community Choir Art Group Footpath Walks Women's Institute Parent and Toddler Group Neighbourhood Watch Hastingleigh Neighbourhood Watch Elmsted Tracey Block 01233 750415
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