

Elmsted with Hastingleigh Community News

*St James the Great
Elmsted*



*St Mary the Virgin
Hastingleigh*

April 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



April

in Elmsted with Hastingleigh

At this time of year I always feel like I am welcomed into the village with a smile; the smiling, nodding daffodils lining the verge at the entrance to the village.

The WI are hosting an open meeting on the 4th April, with a speaker talking about the history of Gt. Ormond Street Hospital (page 13). There is still a need for prizes for the Spring Fair Tombola (page 14). Our local churches are hosting Easter egg hunts on Easter Sunday, see page 25 for details. On 28th April Hurst House is once again opening their gardens for charity, and are well worth a visit (page 23).

As always letters, articles and comments are always 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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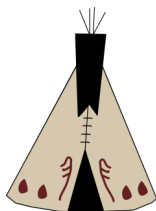
Most aspects of Household and Garden Maintenance

References available

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Hastingleigh with Elmsted Women's Institute

Travels With My Chicken

Hastingleigh with Elmsted W.I. met on Thursday the 7th of March 2019 at the Evington Hall. 19 members attended.

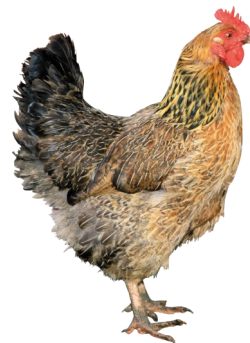
We discussed various items of business before our speaker, Mr Martin Gurdon, gave us a talk entitled Travels with My Chicken. Mr Gurdon is a motoring journalist who has kept chickens on and off throughout his life. He started off the talk by showing us a chicken saddle, a strange item used to help prevent friction related baldness from over attentive cockerels! When he was 10 years old he moved to Lancashire and had his first experience with chickens, collecting eggs in a battery farm. Soon after he got his first chickens, ex-battery hens. Years later he started to do talks about his chickens, and started on the circuit bringing a live chicken with him,

even taking one to a book signing. He still keeps chickens now and regaled us with comical stories about them. From chickens noisily laying eggs in his outside office, whilst he was on the phone to clients, to a chicken that turned out to be both a he and a she, with seized up knees, to an over zealous Indian Runner Duck that did victory laps and took fancy to a particular chicken. Mr Gurdon's talk made for both an interesting and highly entertaining evening.

The Flower of the Month winner was Jean Bowes, with a beautiful hellebore, and the winner of the March competition, picked from a wonderful array of hand decorated eggs, was Lorraine Lawrence.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday the 4th April at 7.30 p.m., in the Evington Hall, where we will be having a talk about the history of Great Ormond Street. This is an open meeting and everyone is welcome.

Marie Wenham



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In The Garden

Hoe the Weeds

If you haven't started to sow seeds this spring then it's not too late and I hope that when you are reading this the March winds (gales really!) have passed on their way and the April showers with sunshine in between is really tempting you outside for a bit of warmth and vitamin D. The early warmth of February has been balanced by the much lower temperatures of March so as the seasons go we are perhaps back to normal.

On a rough bank we had delicate and delightful wild violets growing and the daffodils have made a good showing. Without care and proper ventilation the greenhouse and seedlings on windowsills indoors can be too warm and in danger of drying out. It's a nice balance between warmth and moisture that will keep seed trays and pot plants growing on well.

And the weeds too do grow; responding to the spring they need hoeing while small and half an

hour now will save much time later on. Bulbous flowers such as tulips will make a splash of colour to cheer us. Snakeshead fritillaries are a delight and it is not surprisingly they caught Shakespeare's imagination for he wrote romantically about them. Found in the northern hemisphere from Europe to south-east Asia they have been used medicinally in China for some 2000 years. Although they look delicate they naturalise in lawns which should be left uncut where they grow until accompanying wild flowers have seeded.

On the top land in Hastingleigh and Elmsted the Camellias will do well with a regular display of flowers owing to the naturally acid soil. Spring flowering Magnolias such as 'Leonard Messel' should also be flowering well this month and, in contrast to the Camellias, they are tolerant of alkaline conditions.

In the kitchen garden April is one of the busiest times of the year if there is to be a succession of vegetables. If beds have been manured and prepared over the winter a fine tilth can be raked suitable for the smaller seeds and also ready to plant out larger ones. However, if cold rain or winds persist don't rush too quickly; allow the soil to warm. Vegetables germinate at different temperatures and 10 degrees C would be a good aim for sowing. A cheap thermometer can be obtained at a garden centre although any thermometer will do



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In The Garden cont.

as long as it will read as low as zero. Make a pilot hole with a screwdriver so as not to damage the thermometer and measure the temperature about 125 mm below the surface.

Broad beans, early roots such as carrot and beetroot, spinach and

summer cauliflowers may all be sown. Peas too for if they are sown later they will run into summer temperatures which they do not like.

Fred



‘So they do say...!’

Village street names: In most villages, the through-road is called ‘The Street’ as it is in Hastingleigh. A street was the name given to a properly paved road as created by the Romans such as Watling Street, etc. By the time of Henry 1st, streets were a protected title and were supposed to be wide

enough for two carriages side by side or 16 knights on horseback. ‘Roads’ were later and Shakespeare was the first to use that term and in fact the City of London is so old, it has no ‘roads’.

There are around 5,500 Church Lanes in the British Isles. In the USA, there are more ‘2nds’ than any other name and more ‘West’s’ than ‘East’s’.

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Evington Gardeners

Growing plants in pots

On Tuesday 19th February, Yvonne introduced Mrs Susan Scrivens, who gave a talk about container gardening. This interesting and entertaining presentation was packed full of ideas, tips and beautiful photographs, and liberally sprinkled with amusing personal anecdotes.

After discussing the various reasons for growing plants in containers, ie – to create an effect in position, height and colour, the soil preference of certain plants, for tender plants which need protection from frost or a gift, the disadvantages were mentioned, ie – the need for watering and feeding and that this type of gardening takes time and money.

Then the question of which comes first, the container or the plant? There followed illustrations of what can constitute a container, with the advice to be

creative in one's choice, taking into account size and background. Suitable plants range from small trees and bushes to fruit and vegetables, and can be sourced from nurseries and supermarkets or home grown from cuttings.

This thought provoking presentation ended with some shots of plants in containers, taken around the county, with the advice to look at what other people have done to get ideas, particularly outside pubs!

Next meeting is on 19th March, with speaker Mrs Alison Marsden, and a talk entitled "Gardening with more impact for less effort".



Club Draw

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

1st Prize: No. 31
2nd Prize: No. 92
3rd Prize: No. 46

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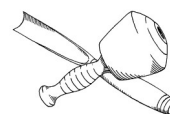
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Footpath Group

10th March

Despite the weather forecast of extra strong winds and heavy showers, possibly clearing in the afternoon and two potential walkers being held up in London due to disruption of the train services because of the winds, five walkers set off down the lane past the old tennis courts into the woods where dogs mercury and wild garlic hinted at signs of spring. There we met our first obstacle – a fallen tree covered in ivy across the path causing a short detour. We continued on round Lyddendane and up the steep slope to the relative shelter of Shrubs Wood where we soon turned left along the track onto open pasture where we heard a lone skylark and out into the wind again. However the sun was shining with fluffy white clouds and no sign of rain. Next, the only stile on our route proved to be another

obstacle; clearly designed for those of above average height. All safely over we headed towards and crossed the Waltham road to cross meadows behind Smeed Farm to the sound of bleating lambs and joined the road again at Little Coombe where we turned to head back to Hastingleigh. As we headed up the slope more skylarks were singing overhead, clearly not deterred by the wind, and from there too in the clear air we could clearly see the Isle of Sheppey in the distance behind us. Back across the Waltham road and through the wood where the first bluebells were coming into flower we returned to the village for a welcome cup of tea to be joined by our delayed walkers finally back from London.



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Thursday, 4th April 2019

8.00 pm

In the Evington Hall

All Welcome

Light refreshments provided

Evington Community Project

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News From Bodsham School

Sporting Superstars

The children and staff at Bodsham participated in World book day this year and spent a week enjoying everything books had to offer. They even got to come to school one day dressed as their favourite character from a book. Costumes ranged from Harry Potter to Where's Wally and the staff participated too, dressing up themselves - much to the enjoyment of the children! The children practised giving by donating their old books to a charity called Books to Africa. More information about the charity can be found at <https://books2africa.org>.

Pupils from Woodpeckers class took part in a Badminton competition in Folkestone and proved to be sporting superstars taking away a gold for one team and second place for another. But most importantly they all had an

excellent time.

The children on the school council decided this year to raise money for Red Nose Day by paying £1 to wear their own clothes, doing a sponsored danceathon (dancing will be taking place throughout the school all day!) and holding a second hand toy, game and book sale after school. Bodsham children are always keen to give and raise money for charity and yet again they are doing an excellent job. On Saturday April 27th, we will be holding another "Bodsham beautiful" day at school. This is a day for all DIY, gardening and maintenance jobs to be undertaken by willing volunteers. As the name suggests this allows us to keep our school looking and functioning as it should and is vital to our building and grounds. If you feel you could volunteer for this in any way or may wish to donate funds towards work and supplies then please do get in touch with us via the school on 01233 750374.

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Beer Tent - Teas - Cakes
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Traditional Sideshows
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Church services in the Parish Upon The Hills		
07/04	First Sunday	10.30 - Petham - Group service for Elmsted, Hastingleigh, Petham & Waltham.
14/04	Second Sunday	08.00 - Waltham - BCP Communion 11.00 - Petham - Communion <i>Note: no Messy Church at Bodsham because it is school holidays</i>
19/04	Good Friday	10.00-11.00 Petham -Children's Easter garden building The 3 hours at the foot of the cross 12.00 Elmsted - Stations of the cross 13.00 Petham - Reflection and meditation 14.00 Waltham - Easter readings and music
21/04	Easter Sunday	09:30 Waltham Family Communion 11:00 Hastingleigh Family Communion 11:00 Petham Family Communion 17.00 Elmsted Choral Evensong
28/04	Forth Sunday	11:00 Petham New Family Communion 11:00 Hastingleigh Communion

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 - April

Tues	2nd	Toddlers	09.30 - 12.00
		Library Van	09.45 - 10.15
		Hastingleigh PC Meeting	19.45
Wed	3rd	Coffee Morning	10.30 - 11.30
		Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00
Thurs	4th	W.I. Meeting	19.30 - 22.00
Tues	9th	Evington Hall Committee AGM	19.30 - 21.30
Fri	12th	Whist Drive	19.00 - 22.00
Sun	14th	Footpath Group	14.00
Tues	16th	Library Van	09.45 - 10.15
		Evington Gardeners	19.30 - 22.00
Tues	23rd	Toddler Group	09.30 - 12.00
		AGM Guild of St John of Beverley	19.30 - 21.30
Wed	24th	Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00
Mon	29th	Parish APCM	18.30 - 19.30
Tues	30th	Toddler Group	09.30 - 12.00
		Library Van	09.45 - 10.15

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

All events at the village hall unless otherwise stated

This month's church flowers and cleaning volunteers:

St Mary's

St James'

Mar 30th	Mrs Bacon, Mrs Geering	Mrs Green
Apr 6th	Mrs Sharp, Mrs Hill	Mrs Calcutt
Apr 13th	Mrs Bowes	Mrs MacFarlane
Apr 20th	Mrs Helmer	Mrs Hewson
Apr 27th	Mrs Morris	Mrs London, Ms Flitney
May 4th	Mrs French	Mrs Francesconi



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EASTER SUNDAY

Easter Egg Hunt

Waltham Church
at 9.30

Petham and Hastingleigh
churches
at 11.00



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WYE PPG

Each year the Patient Participation Group holds an AGM where we review the year's activities and elect new Officers. The Chair can only serve for three years, so, having served my apprenticeship as Vice Chair and the past three years as Chair, it's time to pass the baton on. I'm writing this before the AGM has taken place, so I am not yet able to tell you who the new Chair will be. My last job as Chair is to report on what we have done during the year and our future plans.

Our Action Plan for 2018 – 2019 has three main objectives :-to work closely with the practice reflecting the patient experience, to develop the PPG in the community by encouraging and supporting people to take responsibility for their health and to represent Wye surgery PPG at health forums.

In order to fulfil these objectives we have had meetings every two months where we exchange information with the Practice on new initiatives such as the Ask My GP email service, Electronic prescriptions, the Flu clinics (and the difficulties when vaccines aren't delivered to the surgery on time). Social Prescribing is a current topic and we have worked with the surgery and Our Place Wye to initiate Tai Chi for Health classes twice a week, Wednesday 11.15 a.m.

in Luckley House and Friday 11 a.m. in Wye village hall. Sessions are £6 and open to everyone.

Our main event this year was the Health Information Day in the village hall. Over twenty organisations came to provide information on their services and we were grateful to Dr Fox, Mr Chantler, Headteacher Lady Joanna Primary School, Steve Bingham from the Ambulance service and Anna Paige from the Fire Safety Team, all of whom gave presentations. We have had very positive feedback about this event, with requests to hold it annually.

We aim to involve patients by inviting everyone to be a part of the PPG, either by attending meetings (all are welcome) or by joining the Virtual Group which sends out monthly information by email. Patients can email their views which we then present at the bi monthly meetings. Also this year I was asked to give a talk to the W.I on the work of the PPG.

The organisational structure of local patient discussion forums is changing so we are grateful to John Fletcher who serves as the Public Governor for Ashford at the Kent Community Health Foundation Trust. If you would like to join the PPG, or just come to a meeting to see what it is like, please ask at the Surgery Reception and they will give you all the information you need.

Penny Haynes Retiring Chair.

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New service for families

At Petham church for many years now, we have been holding a non communion family worship aimed at all ages. It takes place on the third Sunday of the month, at 11.00am, and is about 45mins long, followed by refreshments and fellowship.

This service continues to grow in popularity, and we would encourage you all to come along and try it for yourselves, we think you will enjoy it as much as we do.

However, we feel that with success comes responsibility, to continue to feed and nurture our young people towards the next steps. To this end, on the fourth Sunday of the month at 11.00am, we will now be having a family communion service. At this service we are admitting children and teens of all ages to communion.

Teaching them what the things within the service mean, and engaging them in full participation and giving them a sense of ownership of their own worship.

We would love anyone who thinks they might be interested in joining us for this service, to come along. It lasts just under the hour and is also followed by refreshments and a time of fellowship. We do hope you will join us one Sunday soon.

Our other good news is that whenever you join us at Petham church for any service at all, there is a children's corner at the back with toys, books, art etc, which any family is welcome to make use of.

Do pop your head in and have a look, it's really lovely and was funded by a generous donation.

Lorraine (Parish Priest)

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Farming Notebook

SPRING: noun "The season after winter and before summer in which vegetation begins to appear..."

Although the definition of spring in the dictionary seems very obvious there is and always has been a debate as to when spring actually starts.

Imbolg, which has been superseded by St Bridget's Day, is the earliest known reference to spring. Celebrated as a Gaelic festival in Scotland, the Isle of Man and Ireland on 1st February. Snowdrops seem to agree with this early end to winter.

The Met Office declares that 1st March is the beginning of spring. Many believe it is the vernal equinox, which is usually about 20th March, is the correct timing as it is when the sun crosses the equator. It is the day that daytime and night time are almost equal. Day length will continue to increase until mid summer's day the 21st June. However you choose to measure the first day of spring it seems as though, this year, spring arrived for a week at the end of February and then disappeared again. In fact it

was so warm that it seemed like summer. We even had the cattle outside for several days. We are now approaching the equinox and enduring gales, sleet, rain and hail – most unspring like and unpleasant. I am relieved that we have to spend the days inside grading potatoes, and the cattle certainly are happier in the barns again.

Despite the wintery blast there are signs of new growth everywhere. The Horse Chestnut buds are breaking open showing the first green tinge of spring. The daffodils are in full bloom. Crocuses are almost out in flower. And I have had to mow the lawn!

For the winter sown wheat, the end of March or beginning of April is a significant time. The longer days and increasing temperatures mark a change in the plant's growth. Until now the plant is in a vegetative mode of growth known as tillering. The primary stem has been well established and the plant continues to produce extra stems or tillers. From now on the plant starts its reproductive phase. The stems begin to elongate and the embryonic ears start to develop. It is very important not to feed the plant too much until the reproductive phase starts. Too early with the Nitrogen and all that will happen is more and more tillers which results in a very dense canopy. Each plant tries to sustain an excess number of stems, and even if

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Farming Cont...

it succeeds the stems will be weak, ears small and grains shrivelled. In fact many of the tillers will simply abort, and the plant food will have been wasted. Timing the first major dose of nitrogen at the beginning of stem elongation will ensure that the plant can sustain the correct number of tillers, start to develop the leaves that will power grain fill, nourish the ear and start to build yield. For us spring is also marked with the start of calving. Our first calf with tag number "501" is a Hereford cross bull born to a first time mother "403". It was on one of the warm dry days of our brief spring that we let the herd out onto a paddock behind our house. None of the cows showed signs of imminent calving. At tea time there was one extra to bring in! Elizabeth fetched the wheelbarrow, lifted the new born calf into it and started to wheel it back to the barn. The very attentive mum trotted alongside. They were put in a freshly strawed pen on their own to allow them to bond and settle. Very soon the calf was up on its feet looking for the milk bar.

We still have spring planting to complete. Initially with beans and oats that will go in just as soon as the ground dries up enough to create a seedbed. Next week looks promising, so fingers crossed...

Potatoes are planted much later

on. Soils have to be worked to a greater depth and need to be warm. Of all the crops we grow, potatoes are the most important to plant in conditions that will allow the quickest possible emergence. Sitting in a cold wet soil just encourages diseases that will manifest themselves later on in the summer.

This year we have been very quiet in the potato grading shed for most of the winter. The crop is all sold, but growers are requesting delivery as close as possible to planting. We have a really busy schedule ahead of us trying to complete orders. The biggest challenge is to get lorries to take the graded seed away. We very quickly run out of room. We try to operate a "just in time" approach so that we can keep going. We are taking the opportunity of grading as much as we can during these wet and windy days so that we can get out into the fields when it does dry out. I think I can sum up Spring on the farm. It is the time when we start to get busy, everything seems to happen at once, and there are not enough hours in the day.

It is a good time, a beginning and a time of optimism...

W Wilson-Haffenden

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