

Elmsted with Hastingleigh Community News



July 2021 40p



Elmsted and Hastingleigh Community Contacts

Elmsted Parish Council
www.elmstedpc.org.uk

Hastingleigh Parish Council
www.hastingleighpc.org.uk

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

Evington Hall Committee Hon Sec

ECP Hon Sec

Evington Gardeners Hon Sec

Evington Community Choir

Footpath Walks

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Women's Institute

Mrs J Bowes 01233 811875

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Mrs H Ransley 01233 750949

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July

in Elmsted with Hastingleigh

Where has the summer disappeared to? We've had a few hot weeks where our gardens have look magnificent, to very heavy downpours flattening the beautiful lupins and other tall plants.

The front cover was sent in by a villager out walking. Let's hope the dry weather returns so that the farmers can continue to make hay and very soon start the harvest.

Hastingleigh walkers had an evening walk to look at the local wild orchids, which tied in with photos sent in by readers of their beautiful finds.

We are always looking for articles for the magazine. Please don't be shy: send something in! A good review of a local pub, a beautiful walk you would like to share, a poem or a hobby. It just needs to be suitable for all.

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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.

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Advertising: advertising.communitynews@gmail.com
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Or write to: The Secretary, 1 Bowl Field, Hastingleigh, TN25 5HT.

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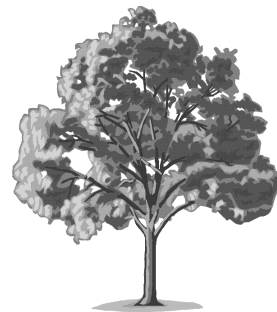
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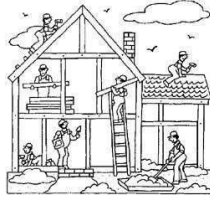
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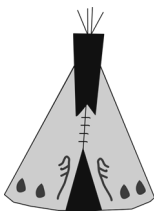
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References available

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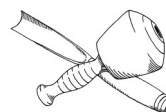
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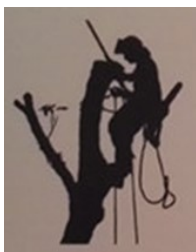
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In The Garden

Your earlier hard work in the garden should pay off in July with flowers blooming and the vegetable garden harvests coming along. I say 'coming along' because with the wet and then dry very cold spring many vegetables are way behind their normal date.

Potatoes were not planted until May and I missed the first earlies but then sowed Charlotte, a second early and salad potato with a wonderful flavour. I first came across this variety when on holiday in Brittany some 30 years ago and it was then virtually unknown in the UK but has now rightly become popular here. In quick succession Desiree, an early main crop went in the ground and both are growing well and have been earthed up. A curious and traditional activity and you can grow potatoes on the flat but in both cases you have to watch out for rogue tubers that peep out of the ground and become green.

The very cold weather has meant that butterflies and bumblebees were scarcely seen at the normal time which meant the autumn sown broad beans, Alquadulce Claudia, produced less flowers than usual and the majority were not fertilised so we have only a tiny crop for the kitchen. The spring-sown broad beans which this year is a variety Ratio that I have never grown before are a mass of flowers so we are hopeful of a good harvest there.

With the difficult weather the kitchen garden has looked very bare this year but, at last is beginning to catch up with climbing beans half way up their sticks and, amazingly, left alone by the wind when we planted them out from earlier sowings from the greenhouse. Year after year here they have suffered for no sooner have we put them in the ground a wild wind gets up and we are anxiously sheltering them with fine meshed net. Apart from the physical damage, these and the dwarf beans do not like cold weather and their leaves can go pale which upsets photosynthesis. Spring sown lettuces are being harvested and peas for podding are starting to flower in June, again late.

In the greenhouse more tender and later plants have been

queuing up to get outside. Tomatoes are growing well with the greater light now, cucumbers are behind but squashes and sweet corn are ready to go out. The bench is more than full of bedding plants grown from seed, cosmos, echium, pansies and so on.

Early in the spring a ceanothus bush flowered well and then the blistering frosts left it looking so burnt and bedraggled that it was condemned and destined to go and a nice new potted ceanothus was purchased as a replacement. It must have heard us for it furiously fought back and by mid June was a glorious mass of blue flowers again. So, rather shamefaced at our haste it has been reprieved and we shall have two ceanothus bushes.

Despite the difficult spring, by mid June the perennial flowers were blooming wonderfully and a mid afternoon break with a cup of tea has been a great time to enjoy them.

Fred

Evington Community Project CLUB

The winning numbers for the April 2021 Draw are:

1st Prize: No. 39

2nd Prize: No: 91

3rd Prize: No: 52

Many thanks to all of the 100+ Club Members for your support.

There is one number left for the 2021 draw. If you would like to purchase this number, please contact Robin on 01233 750236 or Tracey on 01233 750415 or email evingtoncommunityproject@gmail.com

The money raised by the 100 Club allows events like the Film Nights to take place and in 2020/2021 paid for a community Zoom Licence to allow the coffee mornings to take place virtually and more frequently and other village organisations to meet virtually too.

Hastingleigh with Elmsted W.I.

Jam Making Part 3

There were prescribed recipes for making the jams and chutneys, published in the official recipe book, and these had to be followed. If any preserves were made using a recipe not in the book, then the WI that made them took responsibility for them; the Ministry of Food would not take responsibility for any disposal required of spoiled or unsold goods. WI's were told to only do this if they were absolutely guaranteed a local sale. Below is one of the recipes for chutney that were used:

Apple Chutney (Yield approx. 96 fluid ozs)

5 lb apples	1 tsp. ground ginger
1 lb onions	½ - 1 tsp. salt
1 ½ lb sugar	½ - 1 tsp. Pickling spices (if necessary)
1 ½ pints vinegar	

Method:

Cook the onion in some of the juicy part of the fruit or in a very little water until quite soft. (Cooking the onion in vinegar tends to toughen it). Then mix in all the other ingredients, except the sugar and vinegar. Add just enough vinegar to prevent burning and add more as the chutney thickens. After about 1 ½ hours cooking, the chutney should be quite thick, and the rest of the vinegar and the sugar should be added. Cook until the consistency is of thick jam, care being taken that no free vinegar is left.

If you try the recipe do feedback as to how it turns out!

MW

Bodsham School News

Headteacher's letter

How lovely to be enjoying our glorious outdoor spaces at Bodsham School! We are lucky enough to live and work here, being part of the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

One of the things that strikes us at school is how the children value and appreciate their surroundings and are refreshed and revived by outdoor learning. We have a wonderful pond that was cleared earlier this year by a group of volunteers from the Kentish Stour Countryside Project. As a result, we have been able to gain clear access to the dipping platform where we can both observe the wildlife and dip for minibeasts, finding newts, tadpoles, dragonfly larvae, and a whole host of small creatures that add to our area's diversity. The children have gained knowledge and insight into how to take care of the natural world, discovered how free from pollutants the pond is, and how food chains enrich our environment. And of course, what child doesn't love to explore small wriggling bugs! Wishing all our school and wider community a very happy summer.

Paul Newton

Executive Headteacher

The Evington Hall Re-Opening

Due to the latest Government guidelines, the hall will not be opening on 21st June as stated in the last magazine.

Please contact your group for up-to-date information on your regular meetings. The Hall website will be updated as and when it is possible to confirm the re-opening date.

<http://www.evingtonhall.org.uk/>

Elchin Hill

*Many years ago I was a tranquil country lane,
horses and carts toiled up my steep hill,
pony traps and carriages too.
Yearly on Rogation Sunday wagons carrying the Rector
and parishioners toured the parish for the fields to be
blessed for a fruitful harvest.
The steep dangerous hairpin bend has been the
scene of many accidents.*

*Many years ago, a carriage and pair ran out of control
rounding the bend, the shaft between the two horses
became embedded in the bank and sadly one horse was killed.*

*The wild flowers on my banks were prolific in years gone by,
harebells, bell flowers, rock roses, cowslips and many others. Until
recently the primroses bloomed every year near the top of the hill,
now the huge tractors have carved a wider passage between the
banks leaving crumbling bare earth.
I ask myself is this progress or destruction?*

*I look back on the years when children walked to school,
perhaps picking a posy for the teacher on the way
and learning about the changing seasons from the
trees and flowers as they walked.
My name is Elchin Hill. JCD*



Library Van

The mobile library van is now due to come on
Tuesday 6th July 9.45 to 10.15 at
Hall. Books have to be pre-ordered and
returned in a plastic bag.

Hastingleigh Walkers

On Wednesday 16th June, the footpath group met at the hall at 6pm for an evening walk, led by Charles and Sue. We took cars to Denge wood, and walked down through the woods to the Bonsai bank, hoping to see orchids. We were not disappointed! There were orchids everywhere we looked, including common spotted, butterfly, fragrant, pyramidal and helleborines with the last of the lady orchids and the tway blades.

After the heat of the day, it was a pleasant and leisurely walk in the shade of the trees and we all agreed that an evening walk was a good idea in the summer. We were lucky and got home before the rain started.

The next walk will be on Wednesday 14th July at 6pm from the hall.

HR

Orchid photos sent in by our readers



Fly



Lady



Helleborine



Butterfly



Twayblade



Either the Early Purple or the Fragrant. (The photo was taken in early May and so more likely to be the Early Purple)



Common Spotted

Wye PPG

Having A Voice

This year's PPG Awareness Week in the first week of June marked an extraordinarily difficult year for both patients and surgery staff. The postponement of Covid restriction easing until 19 July is a sharp reminder that we are all in a long haul fight against a mutating virus. With that comes the recognition that things are not going to return to what we would consider 'normal' within the foreseeable future and our expectations about the way we access and receive primary care services has had to change. This has been and continues to be a frustrating process of adjustment for both patients and GP practices.

The Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is the NHS body responsible for commissioning local primary care services. PPG Awareness Week coincided with Volunteers Week so the CCG took the opportunity to say a 'huge thank you' to all the patient representatives who help shape health services' The vital role of volunteers was highlighted when many thousands stepped up to help at vaccine centres. They continue to play a crucial role and are a powerful demonstration of what can be achieved when the community and clinicians work together. 18 months into the pandemic, this partnership is even more important as weary patients and staff struggle with 'Covid fatigue'.

Feeling that you have a voice is one way to combat the sense of powerlessness we can all feel in the face of the continuing virus threat. Membership of the surgery PPG is a key avenue of communication and new members are always welcome.

There are also other opportunities to have your say. The Kent and Medway Heath Network is a virtual group of patients, carers, local residents, and representatives from across the area. Feedback from this network helps the CCG decide how health services can best serve the whole population. As a member you will receive regular bulletins and be offered opportunities to participate in focus groups,

consultations and surveys about health care. The NHS Kent and Medway CCG has a Public Engagement Team supplying all relevant information, including regular updates on vaccine roll-out. To join the network, go to kentandmedwayccg.nhs.net and click 'Get Involved'.

As a postscript to last month's article on Social Prescribing you can now access the Surgery Social Prescriber directly at cathy.evans@imago.community.

Judith Timms, PPG Chair.

So They Do Say...!

Domestic wood burning in the UK is responsible for almost two-fifths of the most dangerous forms of air pollution.

'Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my statement that half of the Cabinet are asses. Half of the Cabinet are not asses' (Disraeli)

'In spite of vastly diminishing numbers of worshippers, there are almost twice as many bishops in the Church of England as there were a hundred years ago' (Spectator)

'Where's the egg timer?'

'It's his day off'. (Attr. to HM the Queen and Prince Phillip)

'I do want to have Brooklyn Christened, but I'm not sure which religion' (David Beckham)

Asthma rates in the UK are the highest in the world, 30% of children showing symptoms. The lowest rates are in China, Greece and Russia. Neil Pearce, Prof. of Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene discovered a few years ago that people who own a cat early in life seem to gain life-long protection from asthma. The reason is not known.

The stones of the Great Wall of China were cemented together using sticky rice, lime and water.

News: Prison inmates are to be called 'residents' in future. Offenders will be known as 'Supervised Individuals'.

'Don't forget Mother's Day. Or as they call it in Beverley Hills, Dad's Third Wife Day. (Jay Leno)

TW

Farming Notebook

“Make hay while the sun shines” could be a saying made for this summer.

After a very cold and dry spring the rain finally arrived in mid May, and very welcome it was too. However, as is often the way with the English weather, once the rain had started it really did not know when to stop! On one day we recorded over 40mm (almost 2 inches). There was so much rain that the potato rows were completely submerged. Potatoes do not like waterlogged soils, especially when the plants have not emerged. It can be a recipe for “blackleg”, a devastating disease which leaves the stems of the potato plant a black slimy mess. Fortunately the crop was just about to emerge and so, touch wood, the problem has not manifested itself. Yet...

Once the rains had abated the sun came out and we have enjoyed several weeks of warm temperatures. The combination of sunshine, rising soil temperatures and abundant water has transformed all the crops. Growth has been phenomenal. Wheats are racing through their growth stages and are now in ear. Oilseed Rape has finally finished flowering, the pods have set and are now filling. The spring oats too are growing rapidly.

To continue the debate of recent months as to the optimum drilling conditions for the spring sown oats my verdict at the moment is, first, the crop which went into a dry seedbed, but quite late, followed by the crop planted into a very dry seedbed and very late. Last, but a close third, comes the sowing at the “normal” time but into cold wet soil. As always, the proof of the pudding will be in the eating. Harvest results will give the definitive answer. I will keep you posted.

The winter and spring beans in the area have been very slow to get away this year, but like all the other crops have caught up and look very good.

The potatoes are now meeting in the rows and within a week or so will be meeting between the rows. It is anticipated that the first

ministry field inspections will be done before the month is out. Before that happens we will thoroughly walk each field to spot any virus or blackleg, and physically remove any offending plants. The aphid pressure at the moment is massive. Aphids transmit virus from one plant to another as they feed on the sap in the stems and leaves. As with any population explosion, it takes time for natural predators to catch up. All being well we should see a drop in aphid numbers as the ladybird population increases. (Another example of this population imbalance is the plague of mice in Australia which has been well reported in the media.)

Last but not least is the grass. From a situation in the early spring where there appeared to be no growth and there were concerns about insufficient forage for the cattle, we now have more grass than the animals can eat! The sunshine and warm days have been ideal for cutting the grass. Usually at this time of year we would make silage. Silage can be made quickly and quality can usually be assured, but it needs wrapping in plastic which eventually becomes a disposal headache. This year with the forecast set fair we have made hay. Most of it was baled today and the last field will be completed tomorrow. We should be able to get it all in the barn before the rain returns at the weekend.

We have been busy preparing for the wheat variety trials open day which again we are hosting on the farm. The grass area for the marquees and car parking has been cut and made into hay. But the most time consuming, weekly, job is to mow out the pathways through and around the trial site. These are the areas where the visitors will walk so that they can inspect each different variety. Each wheat can be compared to another for characteristics such as straw length, size of ear, number of ears per plant and levels of disease. On one side of the pathway the crops have had a full fungicide programme and on the other side the crop is untreated. This is a particularly interesting comparison because it shows the varieties which have a natural resistance to fungal diseases. It highlights that sometimes what appears to be the best variety may be the most expensive to grow.

With the lockdown rules being extended we have a meeting

tomorrow to establish all the protocols for the day that will keep small groups of farmers apart from each other so that we can remain Covid compliant. It is interesting to remember that this time last year the trials day was not possible at all and was made into a virtual event viewable on line.

All the cattle are now out to grass and the two bulls are with their girls. Everyone seems very happy. The only difficulty is that the cows are navel deep in grass and it very difficult to count all the calves if they are lying down!

This evening we have had a glorious sunset. With a "Red sky at night..." we should be set fair to get all the hay in tomorrow...



Stelling Minnis Stores

Dear All,
We have been blessed with good spells of sunshine this past month and with the opening of the football festivities,

It's the season for strawberry and cherry harvest and we have begun selling the popular local strawberries and cherries for the summer.

A reminder that the Post Office pension accounts are going to be closing by November 2021. If anybody wants closing forms, please come to the Post Office to collect. After you have transferred your pension payment to a bank account (exc. building societies) you can still withdraw your pension from the Post Office. If you have any further questions please contact: 0345 722 33 44

Hopefully we can enjoy the upcoming summer in all its glory.
Xinyang and Sijia

Parishes up the Hill Rota - July 2021

<u>Date</u>		
04/07	First Sunday	09:30 – Petham – Communion
11/07	Second Sunday	09:30 – Waltham – Communion
18/07	Third Sunday	09:30 – Elmsted – Communion 11:00 – Petham – Family Service relaunch**
25/07	Fourth Sunday	09:30 – Hastingleigh – Communion
<p>All communion services are for all four congregations to worship together.</p> <p>Please do not attend if you are at all unwell</p> <p>All are subject to it being considered safe for our church services to continue - For up to date service info after the magazine goes to print, visit the Wye Benefice website. https://www.wyebenefice.org.uk</p> <p>**Petham Family Service re launch on 18th July. Do come along and bring a picnic!</p>		

This month's church flowers and cleaning volunteers:

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Jul 17 th Jul 24 th	Mrs Bowes Mrs Helmer	Mrs Jeffrey
Jul 31 st Aug 7 th	Mrs Bacon Mrs Sharp Mrs Geering	Mrs Fox Mrs Leutner

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 (with special responsibility for Hastingleigh, Elmsted, Petham, Waltham):
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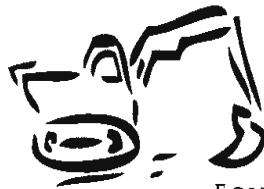


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