Emsted with Hastingle sh

Community News



St James the Great Elmsted



St Mary the Virgin Hastingleigh

December 2016 & January 2017

40p

December and January

in Elmsted with Hastingleigh

A S I write this the first of the seasonal storms is battering at the window and I'm finding it hard to remember the sunny Autumn days of not so long ago. Winter is coming.

Welcome to our double edition of the *Elmsted with Hastingleigh News*, combining December and January.

As you all know this is a busy time of year with many community events so I've had to squeeze a lot into these pages.

Hence, apologies in advance if you have sent a full or half-page piece of editorial and it has been edited down.

Meanwhile, enjoy your read. There are some interesting memories of Elmsted (page 9), a local wreath-making course (page 28), with gallons of mulled wine being dispensed at the village hall (pages 11&25) and the Vicarage (page 16).

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the magazine committee.

The Editor

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Submissions
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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Hall marks | Parish mod cons

HE Trustees of the Evington Hall marked the opening of its recent Refurbishment Project with a small ceremony during the Coffee Morning held there on Wednesday November 2, attended by more than 30 people.

As well as the refurbishment of the toilets, the project included disabled access, installation of wifi, enabling the heating to be operated remotely, and an instant water heater for beverages.

The Trustees are extremely grateful to those organisations and individuals that have supported the hall financially to bring this project to fruition.

Sir Charles Jessel kindly performed the official opening by cutting a ribbon.

Sir Charles was very involved with the fund-raising for the hall in the 1950s and was 'almost' the first Chairman of the Hall Committee (John Forge was the first Chairman in 1956 for a few months, after which Sir Charles took over).

Sir Charles was also a Founding Trustee, along with Gerald Secrett and John Forge.

> **Robin Helmer** Chairman of the Trustees

councils

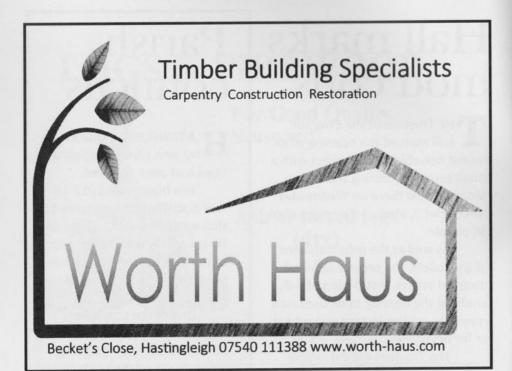
ASTINGLEIGH, Nov 8: No new planning applications had been received.

The budget for 2017-18 was discussed. It was agreed that an additional £150 would be spent towards the upkeep of the churchyard. The Parish Council agreed to precept for £3,090.

One of the Councillors reported that they had attended the Parish seminar on Highways. The seminar had covered the National Spring Clean in 2017, devolution of powers, street lights across the county being changed to LED lights rather than being switched off completely at night. The next meeting will be held on February 14' 2017.

 Elmsted Parish Council meets on December 8.

The Parish Councils wish the residents of both Elmsted and Hastingleigh a happy and peaceful Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.



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Hastingleigh with Elmsted Women's Institute

WELVE members were present at our 91st Annual Meeting held in November.

We heard the Secretary's report and the Treasurer's report. Mrs Argar was nominated, seconded and unanimously elected as our President again.

We then had our usual meeting where we discussed matters arising – mainly, it seemed, to do with food!

We will be manning the cake stall at the Christmas bazaar, with donations required, and we will be



going out for a meal for our December meeting.

After we had finished the business matters, we had a bring-and-share supper. These are always enjoyable, and they give us a chance to talk for longer than usual. We had a lovely choice of food and lots of chatting.

Our next meeting will be a meal out at the Halfway House, and we will be back in the hall for our first meeting of 2017 on Thursday 5th of January.

Fiona Steward

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Talk digs up war history for gardeners

ANDERING in Flanders Fields was the subject of the talk given by Melanie Gibson-Barton at the November meeting, a highly appropriate topic for Remembrance week.

Mrs Gibson-Barton took an aerial view of the First World War and its aftermath, selecting aspects that related specifically to Flanders and illustrating them with excellent pictures.

After hearing about how the war started, the audience saw pictures of works by the war artists, Nevinson and Paul Nash, together with a less well-known painter, Joe English, who campaigned for the freedom of Flanders and designed the headstone for Flemish soldiers. There were old photographs of the trenches in action alongside more recent pictures of some preserved trench lines at the Yorkshire

Trench, Dodengang, and the more comfortable, panelled, German bunker at Zandvoorde.

There were pictures of the devastating shelling of Ypres, now completely rebuilt, and of Poperinge and Talbot House, a place of rest and recreation for allied soldiers of all ranks.

Photographs of the British cemeteries, the French cemeteries with their concrete crosses and the German cemeteries at Langemark, Menen and Vladso with their basalt crosses all bore witness to the colossal loss.

The damage caused by mines was illustrated by large craters still preserved today, and the audience heard how 200 tons of munitions are still being collected every year.

It was an excellent talk, and sobering, and was well-attended and appreciated.

Our next events are the Christmas party with music by the Studio Players on December 13 and a talk about Mongolia given by Pat Morgan on January 17.

The talk on February 21 is entitled 'Seasonal Practical Tasks' and is being given by Caroline Halfpenny. Everyone is welcome.

J.P.

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Rachel's Elmsted memories

DELVE into Elmsted and Bodsham's past in the October issue prompted some memories from a former resident.

Rachel Gibbs, nee Youard, lived in Elmsted with her father Geoffrey Youard MBE (1903-1987), her mother Rosaline (1908-1973), brothers Richard (died 2015), Timothy and sister Frances (Fanny).

The family farmed Elmsted Court Farm from 1931 until after the war when they moved to nearby Beech Tree Farm. Rachel married Dr Denis Gibbs.

Rachel lives in Oxfordshire and receives the Elmsted and Hastingleigh Community News by post. She was an avid writer. Here are some gleanings:

14 May 1983. Ted Fowle died. He would have been 90 in June 1983. Ted was the very first employee of the Youards at Elmsted Court. Ted was a shepherd by trade and we had sheep at first, then came the depression in sheep - the ewes were sold at half-a-crown. I started

dairving in 1931. Ted was a general agricultural worker.

Miss Sheddon had a beautiful barn very near Elmsted Court. (It was just past the churchyard on the left on the way to Hill Street]. She put plays on in her barn - eg Sackville West The Land. [My father and mother went to it.] She [Miss Sheddon] did not like us at all - mischievous person.

Mrs Pope and Mr Toll lived at Elchin Lodge.

My father remembered some field names: Lads - through the field in front of Elmsted Court. It was the field between that and Spong Wood. Newlands - turn right outside Elmsted Court and it was the first field on the right. The Valley - the field at the bottom of Little Pett, on the left which had poles put in at the beginning of the war to deter enemy planes and is where a Spitfire landed.

She writes: "I was shutting up the chickens with Jimmy Argar one evening when we were machined-gunned by a German plane. He pulled me down behind the chicken houses and the bullets ricocheted off. This was on the slope to the Valley, just below New Rents Cottages.

Clarification. Last month's feature - Elmsted gives arch surprise - was the work of the Rev Brade-Birks (see also October issue).

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Living in hope of stile repairs

LEVEN of us set off from the principality of Bulltown by taking the lane past Hope Farm which must have the biggest silage clamp in Kent!

We soon took the path that skirts Cadman's Wood, eventually reaching Hampton Lane, waving at Sarah as we passed.

Half a mile up the lane we took another right, this time skirting Hampton Wood.

At the far end it's always tricky to find the next footpath, but local knowledge meant that with a quick dive into the reeds and some ducking and diving in the wood we were able to cross a little bridge and join the next stage of the walk.

Passing round the back of the wood we soon reached the small fenced woodland that the Mersham Estate planted a few years ago.

At the end of this the walk soon reached a big field which had its usual flock of sheep. Very pleasant walking in this lovely meadow right up to the ancient "Moat" where much discussion took place about this OS-marked feature

(without any firm conclusions!). Then along Hampton Lane the other way to the stile that leads to the pasture paddocks of Hope Farm and after two more stiles back to Bulltown for some tea and cake!

Lovely walk only marred by the last two stiles which were completely broken – note to self: write to The Public Rights of Way people at KCC.

The next walk will be led by Val on Dec 11 and starts at the earlier time of 1.30pm so we can get it in before it's dark.

Derek Harris

New Year's Day walk

BRUSH off the New Year blues and join the rest of the village in the traditional New Year's Day walk.

So that everyone can enjoy the outing the walk is not too long and there will be mulled wine and minced pies afterwards!

We start from Evington Hall at 11am on Jan 1st.

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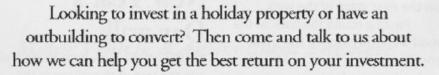
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The Parish upon the Hills

ELL, it's certainly been an Interesting year filled with all sorts of surprising and unforseeable events.

Several commentators have pointed out that if, back in January, you'd placed just one pound on an 'accumulator' on Brexit happening, Trump being elected and (most unlikely of all) Leicester City winning the Premiership, you would now be four and a half million pounds better off! Twelve million if your stake had been a fiver...

Meanwhile, here in Wye, the pews which had been in the parish church for over a century were removed in September and are now sitting - or, rather, being sat on in various homes in the village, mine included. That was something equally unforeseeable when I first arrived here seven years ago...

You see, the golden rule of vicaring, the thing they impress upon us more than anything else at theological college is 'Do not attempt to make any major changes (or even any minor ones?!) in your first year in a new parish. And take it slowly even then...' So when I first heard someone talking about

getting rid of the pews not long after I got here, I was like 'Not on my watch, pal!' Not because I had a problem with it. Quite the contrary: we had movable pews in my last church in London so I know what a positive difference it makes, how much more it enables you to do in terms of concerts, barn-dances etc but I also thought that, for some people, it'd be the end of civilisation as we know it so it didn't go any further...

Anyway, seven years later, it's happened! And while I'm sure there's one or two people who will mourn the old pews, it hasn't been a problem for most; mainly because we aren't replacing the pews with modern chairs but with nicer pews - as hopefully you will see when we re-open on Sunday 18th December.

I say 'hopefully' because there's always a degree of provisionality with these things but - without wishing to tempt fate - it's all gone smoothly so far and we're quietly confident that we will hit our target date. In which case, the first service in the restored building will be at 8am

on the 18th (a service of Holy Communion from the Book of Common Prayer) followed by Parish Communion at 10am and we'll be serving mince pies and cupcakes with coffee afterwards to celebrate.

Then at 6.30 we have our Christmas carol service with, again, mince pies and mulled wine to follow. So please do join us for one or more of those services and indeed for one of the three Christmas services the following week.

One word of warning: in addition to upgrading the pews, we have a new underfloor heating system which we hope will make the building significantly warmer in the fullness of time. However, it will take several weeks to get going (if we do it too quickly, it will seriously damage the new flooring) so, sadly, you won't feel the benefit of it this Christmas so

wrap up warm! But the church community is very happy that we have successfully improved our – and your – building in this way.

It will be more hospitable, more flexible, more welcoming and more versatile; a better resource for everyone and what better time to unveil it than Christmas when we celebrate the all-embracing love of God, made flesh in the person of Jesus of Nazareth? God bless you this Merry Christmas.

Ravi

 THE Rev Lorraine Lawrence and family would like to invite all to a Christmas Open House on Sun Dec 11th, 2pm to 7pm at The Vicarage, Hastingleigh, for mulled wine, mince pies, and a chance to meet with friends. Stay a little, or stay a while. All welcome.

| Dec/Jan flowers and cleaning volunteers: | St Mary's | St James' |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Dec 3 | Dr & Mrs Lawson Mrs Day | Mrs Green Mrs Calcutt |
| Dec 10 | Mrs Morris | Mrs London |
| Dec 17 | Mrs Waters | Mrs Flitney |
| Dec 24 | Mrs Bowes | Mrs Healy |
| Dec 31 | Mrs Helmer | Mrs Denny |
| Jan 7 | Mrs Hewes, Mrs Healy | Mrs Gregory |
| Jan 14 | Mrs Perez, Mrs French | Mrs Pay |
| Jan 21 | Mrs Young | Mrs McFarlane |
| Jan 28 | Mrs Jerrom, Mrs Courtney | Mrs Hewson |

| Manday F 12 10: Jan. | 10-11am: Tots and Tales at Elmsted (see below) |
|--|--|
| Monday 5, 12, 19 ⁻ Jan: 2017 9, 16, 23, 30 ⁻ | 10-11am: Tots and Tales at Emisted (see below) |
| Sunday 4 th Advent 2 | 4.30am Group Service. Special Advent Service at Petham |
| Sunday 11 th Advent 3 | 10.00am Messy Church at Bodsham School Making Christmas decorations for your home |
| | 10.45am Service at Waltham at church |
| | 10.45am Service at Hastingleigh War Memorial |
| | 10.45am Service at Petham at church |
| Sunday 18 th Advent 4 | 9.30am Holy Communion at Waltham |
| | 11.00am Holy Communion at Hastingleigh |
| | 11.00am Family Service in Petham |
| | 5.00pm Evensong at Elmsted |
| Saturday 24 th Christmas Eve | 4.00pm Crib Service at Hastingleigh |
| | 11.30pm Midnight Service at Elmsted |
| Sunday 25 th Christmas Day | 10.00am Family Friendly Service at Waltham |
| | 10.00am Carols and Holy Communion at Petham |
| | 11.00am Holy Communion BCP at Hastingleigh |
| Sunday 1 st January | Benefice Service at Wye – also come and see the refurbished church! |
| Sunday 8 th | 8.00am Holy Communion BCP at Waltham |
| | 10.00am Messy Church at Bodsham School |
| | 11.00am Holy Communion at Petham |
| Sunday 15 th | 9.30am Holy Communion at Waltham |
| | 11.00am Holy Communion at Hastingleigh 11.00am Family Service in Petham |
| | 5.00pm Evensong at Elmsted |
| Sunday 22 nd | 9.30am Holy Communion at Elmsted |
| | 11.00am Holy Communion at Petham 11.00am Holy Communion BCP at Hastingleigh |
| Sunday 29 th | Tba. Please contact the Rev Ravi Holy on 812450 for details. |

Diary dates

Tuesdays Toddlers 9.30am-12 until Dec 20. Back on Jan 10.

Wednesdays Evington Community Choir, 7-9pm. Last one Dec 5. Back on Jan 4.

Thursdays Art 9.30am-12.30. Back on Jan 12.

Dec 1 WI 7.30pm

Dec 7 Coffee morning 10.30am

Dec 8 Elmsted PC 7.30pm

Dec 9 Whist 7pm

Dec 11 Footpath soc 1.30pm

Dec 11 Vicar's (p16) 2pm-7pm

Dec 13 Gardeners' Christmas Party 7.30pm

Dec 15 Carols at Bowl Inn 6pm

Dec 17 ECP 11am-12.30pm

Dec 17 Flute concert 7pm

Jan 1 New Year walk 11am

Jan 5 WI 7.30pm

Jan 17 Gardeners 7.30pm

Jan 28 Jumble sale 2pm

All dates at Evington Hall unless stated.

Rubbish collections

DURING the Christmas and New Year period refuse will be collected in the Shepway District a day later than it is normally collected: ie the usual collection on Friday December 30 will be collected on Saturday 31 Dec.

Ashford Borough waste collections in Hastingleigh over the festive period are:

Recycling: Thursday 29th collection will be collected on Saturday 31st December

Refuse: Thursday 5th January collection will be collected on Saturday 7th January

Recycling: Thursday 12th January collection will be collected on Friday 13th January.

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

A warm welcome

WELCOME to Matt and Emily Clements and their three-year-old daughter Evie, who have moved into Lees Cottage.

Matt writes: "We've met quite a few people already since we arrived as well as children around our daughter's age who she now plays with regularly which has been great.

"We were living in Greenwich for the last 10 years but our families are from Kent: Whitstable, Godmersham and Deal. We got married in Whitstable and had our reception in Godmersham."

Emily and Matt split their time between working from home and travelling for work.

"What brought us here? Peace, quiet, space (for Evie and Boris our dog) and we wanted to come back to Kent and be pretty much in the centre of where our families are.

"So I guess you could say we have come home."

100 Club winners

THE numbers for November's Evington Community Project 100 Club draw are: 1st **79**, 2nd **67**, 3rd **55**.

December & January

ECEMBER got its name from the Latin *decem* (meaning ten) being the tenth month of the year in the Roman calendar.

The winter days following December were not included as part of any month. January and February were later created.

The beginning of the astronomical winter is December 21, the date of the solstice.

January (in Latin, Ianuarius) is named after the word for door (ianua), the opening to the year. The Saxon term was Wulf-monath, the wolf month.

December of 2010 was the UK's coldest December since Met Office records began in 1910, with a mean temperature of -1°C.

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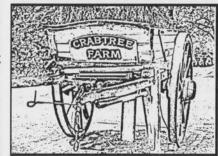
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Clean bill of health for surgery

YE Surgery has been given an overall 'outstanding' rating by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) following its recent inspection of the practice.

The overall outstanding rating is extremely hard to achieve and is a tribute to the hard work and commitment of the 49 surgery staff, all of whom were interviewed by one of the four inspectors who descended on the practice on 31 August and examined, not just the clinical practice, but every aspect of the surgery's functioning.

The CQC is the independent regulator for health and social care in England. It makes sure services such as hospitals, care homes, dentists and GP surgeries provide safe, effective and high quality care and encourage them to improve.

CQC inspection teams are made up of clinical and other experts, as well as people with direct experience of the relevant type of care. The teams visit services, speak to staff and patients and observe the care provided. Each service is assessed against five main questions. They are:

- Is it safe?
- · Is it effective?
- Is it caring?
- Is it responsive to people's needs?
- Is it well led?

The CQC gives a rating for each of these individual areas, as well as an overall rating for the service. The four levels of rating are:

- Outstanding
- Good
- Requires improvement and
- Inadequate the service is performing badly and CQC has taken action against the person or organisation that runs it. This may include placing in special measures.

Inspections are carried out with two weeks' notice, during which the surgery is required to submit documents, including the practice policies and procedures, all of which have to be up to date and compliant with CQC requirements.

Preparation for a CQC inspection requires hours of extra work for staff. In the current climate of diminishing resources and ever increasing demands, the overall outstanding rating is particularly impressive. It is very good news for the practice and for all the patients who benefit from its care. Well done Wye!

Penny Haynes Chairman The Wye Surgery Patient Participation Group wyesurgery@yahoo.co.uk

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Seasonal self-help eases pain

want to thank all of the staff and the patient participation group for the efforts they put in to achieve the outstanding result of the CQC visit (see previous page).

It comes at the most difficult time General Practice has faced in the 22 years of my career. Tougher times await, as the Government impose STPs, Sustainability and Transformation Plans (read swingeing cuts).

We are as well placed as any to survive but it will not be easy and I expect large numbers of practices to fail in the next two years.

Self-help forum

This is one of the best ideas I have seen for some time, a gold mine of advice: www.selfcareforum.org
Common conditions with excellent fact sheets on:

- Low back pain
- Eczema
- Heartburn/indigestion
- · Children's fever
- Constipation
- Headache/migraine
- · Cough (adults)
- Acne
- Sore throat

It also contains **Self Care** for healthy living, including weight, diet, smoking and fitness.

Other useful advice on the site includes Managing chronic conditions, tips for living with a long-term condition. There is a range of free courses aimed at helping people who are living with a long-term

condition to manage their condition better on a daily basis:

- The Expert Patients Programme.
- DAFNE (Dose Adjustment for Normal Eating).
- DESMOND (Diabetes Education and Self Management for Ongoing and Newly Diagnosed) for people with diabetes.
- · Breathe Easy for asthmatics.

These courses usually run over several sessions and will provide advice and tools to put you in control of your condition.

The following websites provide good information that can help you understand more about the common condition or long-term health problem that affects you:

- NHS Choices
- Patient UK
- Map of Medicine on NHS Choices

Private practice

A number of patients have told me that my involvement in Private Practice has been a talking point so I feel I ought to clarify the situation.

I have not reduced my NHS commitment at all. I am at the practice for eight sessions a week, some of this performing normal GP services and the remainder doing tutorials with my registrar, Musculoskeletal clinics, Cardiology clinics and Minor Surgery.

My private GP role is with a company Private GP Healthcare, which employs me and Rachel Sharp to see patients privately for GP services and Health Checks.

I arrange this work in the evening or on a Saturday so that it does not impinge on NHS time. I have no plans to retire at present.

Please get your flu jab at the surgery; it is a form of self help,. It reduces spread of flu and reduces the load on the practice. Remember, the death rate for over 65s from flu is one in ten who contract it.

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Evington Community Project would like to thank everyone for their continued support throughout the years. By way of a sign of our appreciation of your support, we would like to invite you all to a seasonal morning of mulled wine and mince pies.

> Saturday 17th December in Evington Village Hall from 10.30am - 12pm

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Lorry way down..

This month in the African adventures of Vince and Jac Martin of Hastingleigh... they have a sobering tour of Rwanda and submit to a camp haircut!

RWANDA was a shock, in some ways a very pleasant shock, and in other ways a very 'shocking' shock!

First of all the whole country is immaculately clean.
Rwandan's are extremely proud of their country and once a month everyone, including politicians, army, police and even tourists are expected to spend half a day cleaning streets or some other type of community cleaning.

Plastic bags (the scourge of Africa) are completely banned, and if you are found in possession of a single bag you will be fined. Colonel K (our camping truck) was searched at the border for bags.

The capital city Kigali is quite a stunning place nestled in the hills, and full of lots of modern buildings, and there are many, many 'supermarkets'.

These are in reality much smaller and less well stocked than the Co-

op in Wye, but compared to most African cities it proved to be a revelation!

Campsites are few and far between in Rwanda, but we managed to find one near the far northern town of Ruhengeri, called Red Rocks, this proved to be a great place, and gave us our first insight to Rwandans, and the terrible events of 1994.

From here we drove to Kigali, and failed to find any sort of camping area, so we ended up having to stay in a hotel room for a few days.

They seem to respect rules and regulations in Rwanda, and subsequently we were not allowed to sleep in the truck in the hotel carpark.

From here we visited the National Genocide Memorial, which chronicles the history leading up to the mass slaughter of nearly 1,000,000 Rwandans

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(mostly minority Tutsi), then showing the horrific details of the three months when the world ignored what was going on in this tiny country in central Africa. It is also home to mass graves where over 250,000 people are buried. A moving place.

Also from Kigali we drove south to a couple of remote rural churches that were also scenes of incredible brutality, in both cases the Tutsis took refuge in these churches thinking they were safe places, and in both instances they were very much mistaken.

Barbaric slaughter took place, killing tens of thousands of men, women and children by gangs of Hutu militia. We even entered a crypt under the church which is piled high with smashed human skulls and bones. The smell of death is evident in these places.

Despite these events only happening 22 years ago, you now find Tutsi and Hutu living side by side again in the same villages, and everyone is quick to point out they are not Hutu or Tutsi, but Rwandan.

It is an amazing transformation, and follows some very brave decisions by their President, including removing many charities, NGOs, closing orphanages (the orphans are placed with other families), empowering women and attracting huge inward investment rather than aid. Most other African countries could learn a lot from Rwanda. It's not perfect - there is a strong military and police presence everywhere, and the road blocks here are very serious affairs.

After Kigali we headed out eastwards and stayed a couple of nights at a women's centre, where women are encouraged to set up their own businesses and are taught various skills such as cheese -making, basket-weaving etc.

It is typical of Rwanda (it has the 2nd highest proportion of women politicians in the world), to build a facility like this to empower women—we even saw a woman pointing some brickwork here.

We only stayed in Rwanda for about two weeks, and didn't get to see many of the areas we wanted to. It was the rainy season while we were there, and though the main roads here are very good, once off the tarmac it is a different ball game in the truck in the wet muddy conditions.

So with a heavy heart we said goodbye to Rwanda and its mostly immaculate tarmac roads, and crossed into Tanzania via the crazy border crossing there.

The first 100km of 'tarmac' inside Tanzania was ridiculously bad with some horrendous potholes that you could lose a petrol tanker down! It took forever to cover this stretch and at times we

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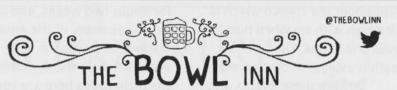
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were doing no more than walking pace (you really don't want a broken truck out here). That night we spent camped in the carpark of the grottiest guest house known to man! Thank God for our onboard toilet and shower.

The next few nights were spent in similar establishments, ranging in various states of badness, but we ended up driving right through the centre of Tanzania, through the 'badlands'.

There is nothing here apart from the brand new capital of Dodoma! Whoever thought it would be a good idea to build a city from scratch in the middle of an arid desert? Crazv.

After a quick stop in Iringa for a few supplies, we camped for one night at some ancient ruins, then moved onto a campsite on a farm, and stayed there for a week.

We had our hair cut, and Jac even had her colour done, all on the campsite! This is a lovely relaxing place and we did quite a bit of walking here. Then after a few nights at a coffee farm we returned to Malawi, to Chitimba Camp on the lake.

We ended up staying here for a week again with the Dutch owners Ed and Carmen. Even the local kids started calling to go swimming with them, it's a great place to chill. We then followed

the highland route through Malawi, and after an overnight stop in Mzuzu, we drove to Luwawa Forest where we did lots of walking in very hot conditions.

The access to the forest was down a long dirt track, and we decided to leave as the rains were starting to arrive and it could have made leaving very difficult in the truck.

We are currently in the Malawian capital Lilongwe, and tomorrow we will cross the border into Zambia, then slowing head to South Africa for Christmas, where we have been invited to stay by an ex-Hastingleigh resident's family —can't wait.

We are still loving our little African adventure. Thanks for reading. You can view our full blog and lots of photos at: www.lorrywaydown.com

Merry Christmas to everyone in Hastingleigh and Elmsted.

> Vince and Jacqui Martin jacmart5@icloud.com

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Wednesday 28th December- 5 until 9pm
Thursday 29th December- 5 until 9pm
Friday 30th December- 5 until 10pm
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We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has given homes to our animals this year. We would also like to thank our loyal supporters and friends, new and old, for their support throughout 2016.

We wish you all a very **Happy Christmas** and a peaceful New Year and look forward to seeing you all again in 2017

Our first event of 2017 will be our Fur, Feather & Exotic Exhibition on Saturday 25th February, 10am-4pm at Boughton-under-Blean Village Hall.

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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

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Evington Village Hall Committee
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The Evington Hall Hastingleigh

SATURDAY

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2pm

20p entrance



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