

A photograph of a forest path covered in white flowers. The path is narrow and made of dirt, winding through a dense forest. The ground is covered with a thick carpet of small white flowers, possibly cowslips, interspersed with green foliage. The trees are tall and slender, with their branches reaching up towards the sky. The sunlight filters through the leaves, creating dappled shadows on the path and the flowers.

Elmsted with Hastingleigh Community News

May 2021 40p



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www.elmstedpc.org.uk

Hastingleigh Parish Council
www.hastingleighpc.org.uk

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ECP Hon Sec

Evington Gardeners Hon Sec

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May

in Elmsted with Hastingleigh

The days are getting longer, and gardens and hedgerows are showing signs of life, with the world around us waking up and turning green. Our printers have sent an apology for the mishap with the middle pages last month. The Bowl Inn has finally been able to open its doors, all be it in the garden. Photos of the new set up can be seen on pages 18-19. Wye PPG have some information on urgent treatment centres; when to use and how to access (p22). We would love to see new content in the magazine, so please do send us any articles, puzzles or recipes you would like to share, and photos for the front cover. These must be with the Editor by the 15th of each month to be in time to be considered for the next months edition.

Contents

In The Garden	11
Apology From Printers	12
Great Drought	13
The Vicarage	14
Church Services	17
The Bowl Inn	18
WI	20
Wombles	21
100 Club	21
Wye PPG	22
Stelling Minnis Stores	23
Farming Notebook	24
Library Van	26
Cleaner Required	26

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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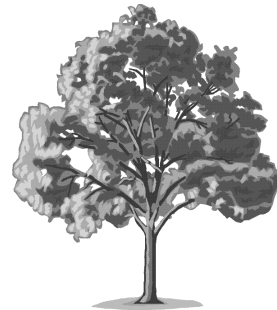
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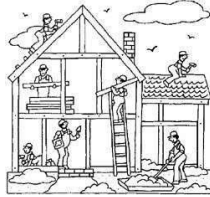
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Glenn Young

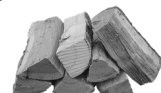
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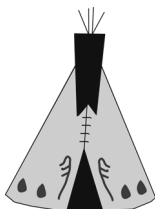
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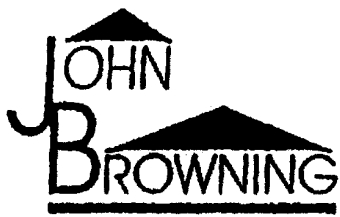
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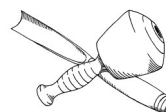
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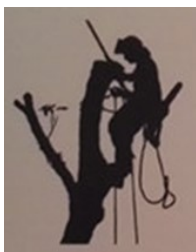
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In The Garden

‘Ne’er cast a clout till May be out’, is a well-known old English saying but, like many of these adages, the meaning might be ambiguous. Clout is easy to decipher and clearly means warm clothing. But does May refer to the month or to the May tree with its abundant white blossoms? There is no reason to believe that the weather in May can be relied upon to be warm and balmy and in my experience the May tree (or Hawthorn to give its common name) typically comes into flower as the spring temperatures increase; so the May tree gets my vote.

As I write this in mid April, we are in the grip of a particularly persistent Blackthorn winter, with one night-frost after another and a bitterly cold north or north-east wind. Just as you thought spring was getting going after a few warm and sunny days, the Blackthorn (*prunus spinosa* - on account of its long and sharp spines on the branches which can cause a septic wound) starts to flower and the weather turns cold. You may scoff and accuse me of believing in such old wives tales but, believe me, I have never known this to fail. The stunning white flowers emerge before the leaves and contrast with the almost black colour of the branches.

So, I hope as you read this the spring weather is warm and with enough rain to allow seeds to germinate: spring will be really on its way. At the moment I’m coping with the greenhouse full of early plants that ought to be out and growing in nice friable, moist soil. Instead they are sheltering inside from the wind and frosts and growing far more than they should be in their seed trays and modules.

Now May is upon us, what jobs need to be done in the vegetable garden? Direct-sown plants such as carrot, spinach and lettuce should be thinned out and from the greenhouse or frames; harden off courgettes, tomatoes and squashes ready to plant out. And, of course, weeding, always weeding, to allow the plants room to grow and thrive. Earth up potatoes to keep the young tubers covered with soil to prevent them going green if exposed to light through the

formation of chlorophyll and the increase in glycoalkaloids, naturally present in potatoes. Although small amounts are not seriously toxic to humans, glycoalkaloids can cause nausea, headaches and digestive upset and are best avoided.

It's not too late to sow Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, runner and dwarf beans, sweet corn and peppers direct outside into a nice seedbed. Just before the flowers open, it's a good idea to hoe the strawberry bed and then cover with straw to prevent the fruit being splashed with mud when it rains, but I fear it won't really stop slugs attacking the fruit from below or blackbirds from above. A good net over the top will keep the hungry birds off, but maybe not a badger with a sweet tooth, who tends to view our net as a trampoline.

With frosts past, large pots can be planted up with begonias, pelargoniums, lobelia and petunias. If tall-growing perennials are to keep their shapely display and to withstand summer wind and weather, staking with canes and twine will pay dividends. Hardy biennial seeds of foxgloves, sweet williams (one of my favourites), wallflowers (for scent), honesty and forget-me-not can be sown either direct in the soil or in modules. These should be ready to plant out in the autumn and, should any produce a flower bud in the first year, it's good to pinch these out to encourage stronger subsequent blooms.

Fred

Apology From Printers

Just a note of apology for the human error in last months magazine with the centre pages transposed incorrectly.

Please accept our sincere apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.

We are grateful for the continued support of the Elmsted and Hastingleigh Community News and will ensure this does not happen in future.

The Mickle Team

100 years since the great drought!

In 1935 Mrs Forge, of Court Lodge Farm, wrote in her recollections of a post war farmers wife, of the Great Drought of 1921. She wrote, then our water supply was confined to catchment water, catching the rain water from roofs, and horse ponds – there being no springs found on the top of the chalk hills.

‘I suppose it would be about Ladyday of 1921 that the great drought began. The nearest spring of water was five miles away and my husband had to go there with a wagon, two horses and his man each morning from March until the second week of December. They would set out about eight o’clock and return between twelve and one with a precious barrel of water. On Saturdays they made two journeys so as to be able to rest on Sunday. I was allowed a tin holding two gallons for my day’s allowance – this had to serve the grownups for washing, drinking and all cooking for twenty-four hours; after July a new baby was added to the house-hold and his needs had to all be supplied from the same two gallons!’ (Water was piped to Court Lodge Farm in 1930)

Arthur Marsh wrote that he spoke to a resident who was working at Big Coombe in 1921 and said “the well had to be deepened to reach water for the cows. The bullocks and sheep were driven down to the spring at Bull Town for a drink. Sixteen water carts came round and sold water to all the householders whose supply had dried up.”

Barbara George was told by Phyllis Graham of Zig Zag that she and her three sisters had to go down to the Bull Town spring with the pony and cart to get water in barrels for the animals. It took all day! Aren’t we lucky today!

RB

From The Vicarage

Well by the time you are reading this, we will all hopefully be well on the way out of lockdown.

This has been a really challenging time for everyone and some of our loved ones are now, unfortunately no longer with us. Some of us will have been incredibly lonely, some very poorly, and some have actually found some peace and tranquillity that our lives had been sorely lacking!

Whatever your lockdown experience has or hasn't been, one thing is for certain, it will have brought challenges, tough decisions, and disappointments.

To all of you who are reading this I want to say, thank you. Thank you on behalf of the vulnerable and society in general, for sticking with it, following the rules, and working with the rest of us to keep each other safe.

Some of you will not have seen those you hold dearest for a year or more. Some of you will have lost people you were not able to say goodbye to and these events were challenging and tough. Very tough, and for many, the temptation to break the rules, or at least bend them, has been huge.

For me, too, there have been tough decisions. In the first lockdown when the virus first arrived, it was easy, because the government said that churches must close, so the decision was made for all of us. But, since July last year, the burden of decision making has been left with us on the front line!

So to all of you I want to say, "I'm sorry". Sorry if the decision I made, was not the one you were hoping for. Sorry if you have felt abandoned in your hour of need, and sorry that anyone had to go without. Myself and my colleagues did our best, but whatever decisions we had made, we could not have pleased everyone. To open or not to open, when and where to have services, and who to potentially put at risk were all decisions we were left to make. It was made harder by the fact that I am in the 'extremely vulnerable'

category, and many of those who help open the churches and enable the services to happen were vulnerable also.

The decision making was done around the question I learned as a very new Christian many years ago. "What Would Jesus Do"? Well Jesus taught us and showed us that God was everywhere, not just behind the curtain in the temple. That we could pray everywhere, at anytime and with any words. Together and alone, out loud and in our heads. Chatty and informal, or together with formal words. But most of all, that God loves us all, whether we love Him or not! He believes in us whether we believe in him or not! And most of all, that none of us are more, or less important than any one else.

So, when I realised that people were not allowed to meet outside or inside, or see their families, and that we were not meant to travel except for food and medical help, or work if we really could not work at home, my first thought was, that if we went to church, we could meet anyone we liked, drive wherever we liked and be together indoors, with those whom we would otherwise never be allowed to see, I had to ask myself if this seemed entirely moral or fair?

Yes, some of us would say. We need God more than ever at a time like this, but God is not a building or a special set of words. What those things are, is extremely comforting, familiar and steeped in the spirit of those who have gone before us. The building fills many with a sense of peace or awe, and I'm pleased to say that the buildings are open for us to find that peace, to sit quietly with God, to pray or to just be. So what we are really missing is formal, organised worship.

I miss it too, and whilst our Benefice has been fortunate to have wonderful online worship lead by Ravi, I appreciate that not everyone can access that, or indeed, wants to.

Worship will be back and soon.

I have spent much time in prayer, soul searching and consultation exploring when, and I have even consulted personally with the Bishop herself, and she says that as soon as I am comfortable with doing so and able to be sure that we can do so safely, we may return to our Sunday morning services.

However, although we are now allowed to meet outside, we are still not inside, so it still feels wrong to elect to give ourselves

privileges that others don't have. So with this in mind, I am happy to announce that services will resume on May 16th with Ascension Sunday, which will be celebrated all together in Hastingleigh church, 9.30am.

The full rota of services will be in the usual place in the magazine or can be found on the Wye Benefice website.

As a personal note, many of you will know that I have been ill since before lockdown started. The one obvious thing to come out of it is the loss of five and a half stone. Also the good news is that although the problem was thought to be my heart, I'm happy to say this is not the case. I have also been waiting for quite a large operation for which I have had three dates, all of which have been cancelled again because of the overcapacity of people in hospital, which is fine, we are in a pandemic after all, but nevertheless frustrating.

So to everyone who has enquired after my well-being, wished me well or a speedy recovery, and to everyone who has been so supportive during these difficult and trying times, I want to express my sincere thanks. The support of others and knowing that others care is so crucial when life is difficult and for that I am extremely touched and grateful. I want to wish you all my very best wishes and grateful thanks for taking me and my family into your communities, and to say that I thank God for all of you and look forward to seeing all of you again in the real world, rather than the virtual one.

Enjoy the spring weather and our gradual emergence from a very long and enforced hibernation.

Lorraine

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
mailto:revlorrainelawrence@icloud.com. Churchwardens: Roz Bacon
01233 750327, Chris Cox 01227 700378. United Wye Benefice 01233
813793 www.wyebenefice.org.uk

Parishes up the Hill Rota - May

<u>Date</u>		
02/05	First Sunday	Covid – No Service
09/05	Second Sunday	Covid – No Service
16/05	Third Sunday	09:30 – Hastingleigh – Communion
23/05	Fourth Sunday	09:30 – Waltham – Communion
30/05	Fifth Sunday	Fifth Sunday TBA
<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 recommence - For up to date service info after the magazine goes to print, visit the Wye Benefice website. https://www.wyebenefice.org.uk</p>		



This month's church flowers and cleaning volunteers:		
	St Mary's	St James
Apr 24 th May 1 st	Mrs Boxall Mrs Pell	Mrs Gregory Mrs Fagg
May 8 th May 15 th	Mrs Bowes Mrs Helmer	Mrs Denny Mrs Healy
May 22 nd May 29 th	Mrs Bacon Mrs Geering Mrs Sharp, Mrs Hill	Mrs Wright Mrs Thrupp

Welcome Back

After nearly six months of being closed, The Bowl Inn finally opened its beer garden on Thursday 15th April.

A beautiful sunny afternoon greeted those eager to show Annie and Annie their support but as the sun dipped down the temperature dropped. The beer garden was full of happy but chilly customers.



Beer Garden Opening Hours

Thursday & Friday 4-7pm

Saturday & Sunday 12-7pm

(until the weather warms up)

Due to social distancing, booking a table is recommended.

01233 750354



Beer garden set up ready for customers. Following strict government guidelines the tables are spaced out and can have up to 6 people on each one.

Beer garden filling up with very happy customers. Hard work for 'Little' Annie having to wait on every table.



Hastingleigh with Elmsted W.I.



Last year I wrote about how the WI across the country made preserves for the war effort. Recently I was given some documents, of Mrs Forge of Court Lodge, that detail the preserve making efforts of the Hastingleigh with Elmsted WI during the 1940's.

Jam making seems to have been a major undertaking with instructions on how to keep account of the quantities of preserves made, how much money was made and spent, when details should be recorded and where.

In 1941: 1,997 ½ lbs of jam; 1,032 cans of fruit canned; 73 lbs of chutney (all made at Hastingleigh), 68 lbs preserves sold at Hastingleigh, and an unknown quantity of preserves and chutney were also made at Elmsted.

There are records of the amount of sugar used each day during the preservation season; the amounts range from 13 lbs to 107 lbs per day!!

There is also a book that records who was making the jam, each of whom were given the designation of Cook A, B, C, etc. Some of the cooks named are Mrs Forge, Mrs Cook, Mrs Powell, Mrs Youard and Mrs Dale.

I shall continue to peruse the documents and next month I will bring details of the types of preserves made, and any other interesting facts I find in them.

MW



Hastingleigh Wombles

This month our wombling took us back along the lanes we had covered in the first quarter of the year.

We only collected 2 black sacks of rubbish in the 1.8 miles covered which included 21 takeaway items, 31 cans, 3 glass bottles, 20 plastic bottles and 3 cigarette packets.

On top of this we had to report to Ashford Borough Council that 4 black sacks of rubbish had been fly tipped along New Barn Road.

Running Totals - 4.1 miles covered

Cans 215

Plastic bottles 111

Glass bottles 27

Takeaways 70

Tobacco/cigarette packs 25

Uncle Bulgaria & Madame Chalot



Evington Community Project



CLUB

The winning numbers for the April 2021 Draw are:

1st Prize: No. 113

2nd Prize: No: 61

3rd Prize: No: 4

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.

Wye Surgery PPG

Urgent Treatment Centres are a relatively new NHS initiative and it can be confusing for patients to know when and how to use them. Historically there have been a number of alternatives such as Walk in Centres, Out of Hours Centres and Minor Injuries Clinics, with differing local names and offering different levels of service. The bewildered patient has often found it easier to go straight to A&E which is a service everyone understands. The plan, now, is that the commonality of Urgent Treatment Centre provision will offer greater clarity and simplify the system, so patients will know where and when to go.

The primary purpose of the Urgent Treatment Centre is to relieve the pressure on A&E Departments by treating minor injuries and illnesses that are urgent, but not life threatening. For example - Sprains and strains, suspected broken limbs, minor head injuries, cuts and grazes, bites and stings, minor scalds and burns, ear and throat infections, eye problems, coughs and colds, feverish illness in adults, feverish illness in children, abdominal pain, vomiting and diarrhoea and emergency contraception. Clearly if the illness is an emergency and life threatening you should dial 999.

Our nearest Urgent Treatment Centre is at the William Harvey Hospital and it operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including bank holidays. The centres are led by GPs and are equipped to diagnose and deal with many of the most common ailments for which people attend A&E.

If you are in doubt, the best thing is to call NHS 111 or go to www.111.nhs.uk. They will be able to direct you to the most appropriate service and will also be able to cut down on your waiting time by booking an appointment ahead of your arrival.

IMPORTANT REMINDER TO UPDATE PATIENT DETAILS.

If you have moved or changed your landline, mobile number or email address, please remember to update the patient details held on you at the Surgery. Do this, too, if the details about your next of kin or who to contact in an emergency have changed.

If your details are not up to date, you may miss a call about a vaccine appointment or, in a worst case scenario, an ambulance could be sent to the wrong address in an emergency, when time is critical.

Judith Timms, PPG Chair

Stelling Minnis Stores

We are glad that lockdown measures are easing and that normality is gradually returning once again.

Alongside Royal Mail services, the Post Office also provides Parcel Force delivery. For sending within the UK, you can send parcels up to 30kg. Standard parcel size must not exceed 3 metres in length and girth combined and must not exceed 1.5 metres in length. Large parcel sizes are up to a maximum of 4 metres in length and girth combined and 2.5 metres in length. Parcel force covers greater compensation at £100 for free and up to £2,500 for more valued goods at a rate of £1.80 for the first extra £100 cover and £4.50 for every subsequent £100. Additionally, you may find that Parcel Force delivery offers cheaper prices for larger and heavier parcels. Parcel Force also offer a wide range of services including Express 9, 10, AM (for guaranteed delivery in the morning), and 24, 48. For overseas and international delivery services include Globalexpress, Irelandexpress, Globalpriority, Globalvalue, HM Forces and Globaleconomy.

As a reminder, despite easing lockdown restrictions, we will continue to hold our current social distancing measures of a maximum of 3 customers and for all customers to wear a face mask.

If you have any question about our order and collect service or would like to make an order, please feel free to contact us via landline (709306) and email (dumptonpo@hotmail.com).

Hopefully, we can all begin to enjoy the reopening of stores, outdoor activities and pubs as summertime awaits for us around the corner.

Xinyang and Sijia

Farming Notebook

The clocks have changed and the days are getting noticeably longer. It gets light earlier every day, and also the evenings are drawing out. It should feel that winter is really behind us. But it does not...

Although we have had some beautiful sunny days, and no rain to speak of, it is bitterly cold. Every morning this week we have woken to a sharp frost with temperatures as low as minus seven. We have had snow flurries but thankfully that is all they were. Family and friends in the west and north of the country have shared pictures of snow laying several inches thick. And it is mid April!

In spite of the cold weather the oilseed rape has grown rapidly and is now over 60cm tall and showing the first hint of yellow flowers. First thing in the mornings the plants look very droopy-they really are not enjoying the frosts. Once flowering really gets going pollination will start and the tiny seeds will set. This will be our harvest in a few short months' time. Frosts at this stage would not be good as seeds would abort and the pods would be "blind" or empty and yields would suffer. Let us hope that the forecast for slightly warmer weather next week turns out to be correct.

Fruit growers too are hoping for warmer temperatures. The pears are just about to come into flower. Cherries and apples will follow very shortly. Alan Hart is very busy getting all his hives of bees ready so that he can move them into the orchards at very short notice. It is a real skill to introduce the bees just as the flowers open. Too soon and the bees go and forage for another source of pollen, and too late there is the potential for compromising the number of fruits that will set. It is interesting that bees, once they have found a food source will stick with it even if a different more plentiful food becomes available closer to home. If a hive is needed in apples, after being in a pear orchard, the hive cannot be moved to an adjacent orchard it has to be closed up and moved several miles away to prevent the bees swarming and going back to the spot that their hive used to be. Alan spends his very early mornings kris-crossing the county with hives as

they change from one fruit blossom to another.

Last month I discussed my spring oats at length. Just to keep you all updated, the later planted fields have now caught up the earlier sown crop. To make the comparison even more interesting I have planted an even later crop into a field originally destined for potatoes. Watch this space...

Up to now we have held off planting the potatoes as the ground is still so cold. We have made our calculations as to how far our seed will go. Plant population being very important in determining the number and size of the daughter tubers. For seed production we need to plant a high density of seed to encourage both high tuber numbers and small tuber size. As some of the seed that we have bought in is “bold” despite being within the required size range of 35-55mm diameter, the area that we can plant with a tonne of seed will be less than normal. Tuber counts that we have done for our input seed – the number of tubers per 50kg of weight- are some 15-20% fewer than average. Therefore the area we need to plant all our available seed will be 15-20% less than planned. Hence the decision to take one field out of potatoes and plant it with oats.

Calving is all but complete. Two very heavily pregnant cows still to go... All has gone very well this year, with some nice sized calves. Big enough to be robust, but not too big to give calving problems. It is worthy of note that we have an abundance of heifer calves this year. I really do not know why that should be.... We even have a very strong set of twins-both heifers!!

Our only fatality this spring has been a cow. She calved and was a very attentive mum, and her calf was feeding well. However the cow developed severe mastitis in one of her quarters. We had the vet, who prescribed and administered some very strong antibiotics. After several days of treatment and just as the cow showed some real improvement and had started eating properly again, she just dropped down dead. As always, a very sad event. But we had to worry about the calf. When we found her a few minutes later she was busy pinching milk from another cow! We have kept a close eye and it appears the orphan is being looked after by three “aunties” and is doing very well.

Yesterday was a stressful day in the office. We had our virtual, on-line, inspection for our “Red Tractor” farm assurance. Weeks have been spent downloading documents, photographs and scans onto the portal. The morning was spent on a video call with our assessor, who was in Dorset, that culminated in me giving a WhatsApp video tour of the farm. I am pleased to report that we passed on all three of our assurances. Assured Combinable Crops, Assured Produce (in our case, potatoes), and Assured British Beef and Lamb. We can relax for another 363 days!

Well, apart from now having to fill our BPS (Basic Payment Scheme) forms for every field on the farm. The scheme is in its first year of its tapered removal. It is a legacy of the EU which the government pledged to phase out over the next few years. The idea is that we will transfer to a new UK scheme based very much on the environment and the “public good”. We do not yet have the faintest idea what is required for the new scheme, and nor does anyone else! At least some more form filling will keep me in the warm office...



Library Van

The mobile library van is now due to come on **Tuesday 11th May** 9.45 to 10.15 at Hall. Books have to be pre-ordered and returned in a plastic bag.

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