

A photograph of a young lamb with light-colored wool and a yellow ear tag, lying in lush green grass. The lamb is positioned in front of a rustic wooden fence made of vertical posts. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

Elmsted with Hastingleigh Community News

April 2021 40p



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www.elmstedpc.org.uk

Hastingleigh Parish Council
www.hastingleighpc.org.uk

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(www.evingtonhall.org.uk)

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ECP Hon Sec

Evington Gardeners Hon Sec

Evington Community Choir

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April

in Elmsted with Hastingleigh

The daffodils have opened and are a very welcome sight coming into Hastingleigh.

Other signs of Spring can be seen all around us: lambs can be seen in the fields; birds are singing again; spring flowers are popping up in gardens and on verges. There is some important information regarding the local elections taking place in May, see page 18 for further details.

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.

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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: advertising.communitynews@gmail.com

Secretary: secretary.communitynews@gmail.com

Or write to: The Secretary, 1 Bowl Field, Hastingleigh, TN25 5HT.

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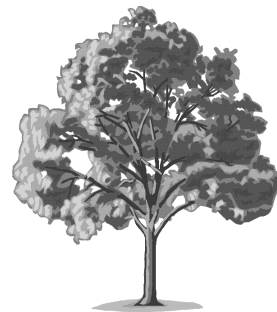
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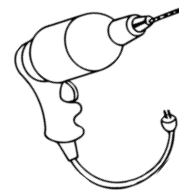
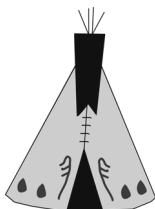
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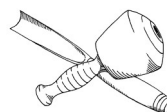
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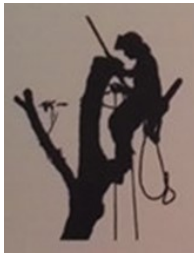
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In The Garden

6 March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb' – so says one saying. Last month certainly started with very cold and windy weather, which scarcely tempted us out into our gardens. And certainly left the soil too cold for sowing seeds outdoors. So we look forward to kinder weather for April. To be a gardener, or a farmer, you have to be an optimist!

After a hiccup with the electricity supply to the greenhouse, the propagator and fan heater raised the temperature enough to germinate salad and bulbing onions, spinach, radish, parsley and broad beans. Outside, the picture was not so happy – late winter brassicas, the curly kale, purple sprouting broccoli were 'burnt' by the frost and, although we harvested some of the broccoli, they looked dreadful. As for autumn sown lettuce, Valdor and Merveille De Quatre Saison: forget it. The wet winter, not the frost, just finished them off – I cannot remember losing this crop before. As an optimist (yeah, yeah!) I am looking forward to a warm and balmy April. Some other perennial flowering plants have also died over the winter and will have to be replaced. Fortunately, despite the lockdown measures, garden centres are open and we have obtained some bags of multi-purpose compost for sowing modules of vegetable and flower seeds.

So, a busy month in the vegetable garden. My books say 'beds will have been prepared over the winter, during which time weeding, digging and manuring will have taken place'. Well, not in my garden: it was all too wet. Fortunately, as a 'no dig' enthusiast, the beds are not too bad so we can catch up with weeding and spreading about an inch of compost (spent mushroom compost a lot of it) on the surface ready to get going. Once the soil is warm enough, direct sowing outside can take place with broad beans, carrots, beetroot, lettuce, parsley, parsnip, and Swiss chard, for example. And sow your peas early: they are a spring vegetable and need plenty of water to thrive and yield. Later-sown peas will suffer in the dry weather with fungus and blight on their leaves. Early cabbage and broccoli can also be

sown this month. It's also still a good time to sow early and main crop potatoes. The cold weather has held back my usual chitting of the seed potatoes with less growth from the eyes, but no worries.

As usual, snowdrops bloomed reliably in March – a gift from friends many years ago that always remind us of them even though they have long moved away. If you have a pond, particularly if it is pre-formed or has a liner, the edges should be masked. Plants that come into leaf early, such as evergreen grasses and some ferns, are ideal for this purpose. This is a month to enjoy aubrietia that will happily live on poor soils and spread between stones and rocks. But what has happened to Tumbling Ted (the Soapwort) that always used to accompany aubrietia? Nurseries don't seem to stock these plants, but the seeds are available and can be spring-sown in compost in a seed tray but with not too much heat, and germination can be slow – about three weeks.

Many spring shrubs and trees are a delight at this time of year: magnolias, the camellias (whose waxy blooms are a wonderful foil to the glossy leaves), viburnums and early flowering rhododendrons. Willows, with their yellowish spring catkins, are a boon to the honeybees, with their generous offering of pollen.

Herbaceous perennials may be lifted and divided this month. By tradition April is the time when Michaelmas daisies and asters are divided and it is important that this is carried out regularly to prevent clumps of them becoming woody and dying out. The early-flowering shrubs such as berberis, forsythia and spiraea need pruning as soon as they have finished flowering. A little later, ceanothus and fuchsia can have the same treatment. Lots to do!

Fred



Hastingleigh with Elmsted WI

This month I've been going through the earliest programmes I have, starting with 1936. Hastingleigh with Elmsted W.I. started in 1925, so we need to put our thinking caps on, working out how we will celebrate our Centenary in four years!

April 17th 1936 – the competition was a 'home-made bedroom slipper not to cost more than one shilling' and the social half hour was an ankle parade, with 'keep fit games and dancing'. After many years had elapsed, the competition for members in December 1970 was 'neatest ankles'.

The competition for the 8th May 1936 was a 'working man's packed lunch, to cost only 6d', and in February 1939 it was a 'home-made hat to cost no more than one shilling'. In August 1942 it was the best thing made from two ounces of wool and in July 1946 it was an article made from string.

I found the programme from 1937 had many activities that could be used today. In January the debate was 'That our children have too much liberty'. In March the members spoke about 'My favourite book, and why'. In April the debate was 'That it is cheaper to buy vegetables than to grow them'. In October, members had an exhibition on 'Something which belonged to my grandmother'.

There was a bit of a theme starting in October 1950 with a talk on care of hands and feet, in June 1951 it was care of hair and hands, March 1952 it was care of feet, with the same in July 1953. I couldn't find feet mentioned for the next ten years!

I want to leave you with a quote from the meeting in August 1936. 'Smile awhile, and while you smile another smiles, and soon there's miles and miles of smiles.'

Fiona Steward

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Andrew Forge

Last month, we printed some of the obituary of Andrew Forge, a local artist and author, who died last year. This month, we are printing the rest of the obituary, which sheds light on his artistic development and style:

'Forge was originally a realist painter and studied under William Coldstream at the Camberwell School of Art. But after more than a decade as a painter of figures in a tradition of direct observation, in 1963 he abandoned realism. "For some reason, the problem of scale had become insoluble," he recalled.

"I discovered that the dot, which represented nothing beyond itself, had its own scale."

For the next 30 years Forge's artistic vocabulary consisted entirely of coloured dots and dashes of paint which he called "sticks". But unlike the pointillist paintings of artists such as Seurat, Forge's pictures were not intended to depict a specific image.

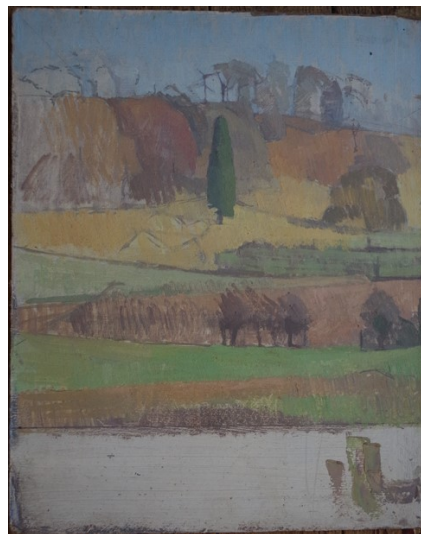
The thousands of dots covered the canvas in visual rhythms which Forge described as "drumming". "Each painting," he explained, "starts with a single dot, and it grows as dots accrue over the field of the canvas . . . As the white field of the canvas is covered dot by dot, colour reveals itself."

Recalling the work of Claude Monet and Mark Rothko, the resulting pictures combined an element of optical illusion with glimpses of landscape or figures. Forge maintained, however, that while his work was inspired by real experiences, it was not an attempt directly to reproduce an image.

He acknowledged that his paintings posed difficulties for the observer and suggested that they be viewed "at as many different distances as the gallery allows".

The art critic of the New York Times, reviewing a retrospective of Forge's art in 1996, wrote that "the whole surface of the canvas is mysteriously alive, composing and recomposing itself as we come to terms with it". However, Forge, when questioned as to the meaning of his paintings, replied simply, "They take a long time to make".'

The images printed here are with the kind permission of his daughter, Kate Harrison, who lives locally. To see examples of Andrew Forge's later work, enter 'Andrew Forge' into your search engine; sadly, we do not have permission to reproduce any here.



'So They Do Say'

'The Danish language has no word for 'please'

'The two oldest cats that ever lived were aged 34 and 38'

'The tallest man ever was Robert Wadlow of the USA. He was 8ft 11 inches tall and died aged 22'

'The decline in sparrow population is thought to be because of changes in agricultural practices, partly with the loss of stubble. Since the mid-seventies rural numbers have halved; while in towns and cities, sparrow numbers are down by 60% and they are now red-listed as a species of high concern. Feeding with mealworms is said to help increase the numbers'

TW

This month's church flowers and cleaning volunteers:

	St Mary's	St James
Mar 27 th Apr 3 th Easter 4 th	Mrs Bowes Mrs Helmer	Mrs Jeffrey
Apr 10 th Apr 17 th	Mrs Morris Mrs French	Mrs Fox Mrs Leutner
Apr 24 th May 1 st	Mrs Boxall Mrs Pell	Mrs Gregory Mrs Fagg



*St Mary the Virgin
Hastingleigh*



*St James the
Great
Elmsted*

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



Library Van

The mobile library van is now
 due to come on **Tuesday**
13th April 9.45 to 10.15 at
 Hall. Books have to be
 pre-ordered and returned in a
 plastic bag.

Potholes

Should you spot a pot hole or any other Highways matter, please log on to



<https://www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem>

And report the problem. Alternatively, you can call: 03000 41 71 71 (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm).

Hastingleigh Wombles

Finally the weather stayed dry enough for us to get out wombling in March and we decided to revisit the road from the crossroads towards New Barn Hill. We had covered down to the North Downs Way footpath in January but this time we continued to the South Hill junction and paid a little visit into the woods on the left. We collected 6 black sacks of rubbish including 93 cans, 35 plastic bottles, 6 glass bottles, 12 takeaway wrappers and just 2 cigarette/tobacco packets.

Running Totals - 2.3 miles covered

Cans 184

Plastic bottles 91

Glass bottles 24

Takeaways 49

Tobacco/cigarette packs 22



Hopefully with better weather and longer hours of daylight we can get out more often to help keep our lanes looking clean and tidy but sadly we expect to see more litter as more walkers and cyclists get out!

Madame Cholet & Uncle Bulgaria

Elections May 2021

Residents go to the polls on May to cast their vote for our next Kent Police and Crime Commissioner and also in Kent County Council elections.

In addition to voting in person at a polling station, you can submit a postal vote or choose someone to vote for you in a Proxy vote. The deadline for applications for a postal vote is 20 April, and 27 April to apply for a proxy vote. Apply early if possible.

For Hastingleigh

Visit www.ashford.gov.uk/ways-of-voting or email your name and address to vote@ashford.gov.uk if you require a paper form.

As a result of the pandemic health and safety measures, you may not be able to vote at your usual polling station and you may have to travel further to vote in a polling station. It may also take longer to vote than usual.

For Elmsted

Vote by post

We strongly recommend that you apply as early as possible to ensure your postal or proxy application is received before a deadline date. Voting by post is great if you are away for the election. You need to apply early, if you miss the application deadline you will not be able to vote by post.

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voting-person-post-or-proxy/voting-post> You will be transferred to the Your Vote Matters website with the most up to date application forms.

Someone voting on your behalf (one time only)

Someone can vote for you, this is called a **proxy vote**.

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voting-person-post-or-proxy/voting-proxy>

You will be transferred to the Your Vote Matters website with the most up to date application forms.

Someone voting on your behalf (permanently)

Applications to permanently vote by proxy can be made at any time

throughout the year.

You can only apply for a permanent proxy vote if any of the following restricts you from attending a polling station:

- a medical issue or disability
- existing work commitments
- armed service commitments

You will need your permanent proxy vote application signed by someone confirming your reasons for wanting a proxy vote. The application form will tell you who needs to sign it.

Visit : <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voting-person-post-or-proxy/voting-proxy>

You will be transferred to the Your Vote Matters website with the most up to date application forms.

Someone voting for you in an emergency

Applications to vote by emergency proxy can only be made from 5pm six working days before an election/referendum until 5pm on polling day.

You can only apply for an emergency proxy vote if either of the following restrict you from attending a polling station:

- you have a medical emergency which occurred after 5pm on the sixth working day before an election
- you become aware of last minute work, armed service or employment commitments after 5pm on the sixth working day before an election

The emergency proxy vote application must be supported by a qualifying person (a doctor or your boss), confirming your reasons for wanting an emergency proxy vote. The application form will tell you who needs to sign and support it.

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voting-person-post-or-proxy/voting-proxy>

You will be transferred to the Your Vote Matters website with the most up to date application forms.

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Front Cover Pictures



We would love to receive photographs, paintings and sketches of our villages. Capture the wonderful scenery, wildlife and work in our community and email it to the magazine address

elmstedwithhastingleighcommunitynews@yahoo.co.uk

Please include where the picture was taken/drawn and your name if you would like to be credited.

Pictures would look better if presented in portrait and be relevant to the month in which it's going to be published.

The **April** cover photograph was taken by Sue Boxall in Hastingleigh.



Evington Community Project **CLUB**

The winning numbers for the March 2021 Draw are:

1st Prize: No. 19

2nd Prize: No: 89

3rd Prize: No: 2

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.

Stelling Minnis Stores

Dear all

It's great to have met many of you over the last year and hope to see many more of you. From here on out, we would like to post any notable updates and announcements to our Post Office and store for you on here.

Lockdown may have been eased but if you have uneasiness about entering the store, we will still be continuing our current order and collect service, where goods will be ordered and delivered to outside the store front. To order please contact us via landline (709306) and email (dumptonpo@hotmail.com). Payment can be via contactless card payment (using our mobile card payment machine), cheque or you can set up an account with us in which you can top up with us on a periodic basis.

As many of you may know, the post office has been moved to the front of the store, next to the shop counters. This way, our post office is able to open as the same as shop opening times. We would like to make aware of post office banking services which offer both automated cash withdrawal and deposit, and manual cheque and cash deposit (via payslip) with selected banking services. Cash withdrawal and deposit limits depends on individual banking services. If you would like to make a query about a cash withdrawal above your daily limit, please contact us.

From April this year, we will be charging 10p per plastic bag, in accordance to new national rules announced last year. We encourage all to use the recycled bags and boxes.

Sending everyone lovely thoughts and hoping you all have a wonderful Easter!

Xinyang and Sijia

Farming Notebook

For a brief moment we thought that spring had arrived. It was sunny, very windy and dry. Now I sit composing this article with snow flurries and sleet swirling around outside. This is not to forget the heavy rain showers which too have returned. Winter, it seems, is hanging on for a last hurrah.

In the dry few days we managed to get onto the fields and to complete the winter ploughing and apply the initial dose of fertiliser to the winter crops. The wheat, grass seed and oilseed rape all had a dressing of ammonium sulphate at 200kg of product per hectare. This gave about 40kg of nitrogen and 120kg of sulphate. The sulphur is very important in young developing crops. It was not that long ago that the pollution from coal fired power stations and diesel engines provided sufficient sulphur in the atmosphere to satisfy all of the crops' needs. Laws on low sulphur diesel, and the move from coal to other sources of power generation has meant that the air is too clean! It is now normal practice and a necessity to apply elemental sulphur.

The grass fields, herbage seed, and oilseed rape had an additional application of 200kg of 34.5% nitrogen (70kg N per hectare).

With fertiliser applied, the crops will grow away rapidly as the ground warms up. The oilseed rape in particular has grown noticeably over the last week or so with flower buds clearly visible. It is amazing to think that in five or six weeks it will have grown to four feet tall and be in full flower.

The return of the cold snap, with frosts forecast for next weekend, have really checked crop development. What we need is some warm weather...

We have a significant area of spring oats to plant. A variety called Isabel, which has done well for us in previous years is to be grown for seed production. My dilemma is that I like to plant spring cereals into a nice warm seedbed so that the crop can be up and away quickly. It used to be said that you needed to be able to sit on the ground with your bare bottom and feel it warm to your skin before you planted

your seeds in the spring. I can tell you that there is no chance of me trying that method! I know the soil is still very cold! So should I plant whilst the soils will work well but are still cold, or should I wait for it to warm up and miss the opportunity? All the while the calendar is ticking over and soon it will be the end of March with no sign of warm weather. As always, we have hedged our bets and planted half our oats before being rained off. The fields look soggy and I will know in a couple of weeks time if I was half right or half wrong to have gone drilling. But then again, I may be half right or half wrong with what I have not sown...

Calving of the main herd is in full swing. The barn is filling up with new mums with their little calves. Because of the cold nights and bitter winds, we keep the barns well littered with fresh straw. The calves curl up in the deep bedding and keep very snug between meals. When we check on them it is a real game of hide and seek to try and find them. We had a nice surprise on mothering Sunday with a lovely set of twins.

We had planned to have all the Christmas calving Sussex cows and their calves outside by now. But the paddocks are so wet, and the nights so cold that we still have them inside. Usually, we use their vacated pen as our nursery for the main herd. We are just having to keep the newly calved cows and their young in the same pen as the cows yet to calve. Not ideal, and a potential source of mis-mothering, but needs must.

Over the next week we will grade and bag the last of the seed potatoes ready for dispatch. Thankfully the store will then be empty. It is fortunate that sale contracts were all agreed last year because now the market is literally dead. With the EU not accepting any seed from the UK in the short term there is now a lot of seed in the domestic market with no home to go to. Fortunately, other commodities such as wheat and oilseeds remain fairly bullish post Brexit but that is much to do with global lack of availability. As Lord Frost said, the EU have got to stop sulking about Brexit and make our future relationship work. I digress, but I am convinced that the EU stance on the “British” Astra Zeneca Covid vaccine is driven by political pique and not science. Talk about “cutting off your nose....”.

As the UK powers on with a successful vaccination programme the EU are having to shut down as they endure a third wave of infection.

It is interesting that a year ago I wrote about the shortages of loo rolls as the country was just entering the first period of lockdown. The future then was very uncertain. Now a year later, with over 25 million people vaccinated in the UK and all the indices moving in the right direction, there is an air of cautious optimism that there is a light at the end of this long tunnel. Let's hope so...

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The dates are the **1st & 3rd Wednesday** of each month, commencing at **10.30 am**.

The login details are:
Meeting ID: **872 286 0605**
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We look forward to welcoming you back to our Tea Rooms in Stelling Minnis and the Hythe Charity Shop on Monday 12th April.

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We are hoping to hold a Boot Fair in June or July, restrictions permitting.

However, due to age and health reasons, many of our loyal, long-serving helpers have had to hang up their boots. If we are to continue with these fundraising events, we need able-bodied people with lots of enthusiasm to come forward with new ideas to make these events even more enjoyable.

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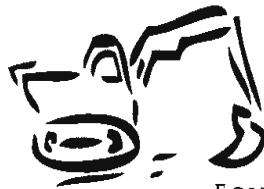


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