



Elmsted with Hastingleigh Community News



December 2018
& January 2019

40p



Elmsted and Hastingleigh Community Contacts

Elmsted Parish Council

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Hastingleigh Parish Council

Tracey Block 01233 750415

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(www.evingtonhall.org.uk)

Shelley 07401 908249
bookings@evingtonhall.org.uk

Evington Hall Committee Hon Sec

Mrs H French 01233 750483

ECP Hon Sec

Mrs S Boxall 01233 750206

Evington Gardeners Hon Sec

Mrs H Ransley 01233 720152

Evington Community Choir

Mrs C Jeffery 01233 750585

Art Group

Mrs V Kerry 01227 700843

Footpath Walks

Mr D Harris 01233 813711

Women's Institute

Mrs J Bowes 01233 811875

Parent and Toddler Group

Mrs L Lawrence 01233 750987

Neighbourhood Watch Hastingleigh

Mr G Block 01233 750415

Neighbourhood Watch Elmsted

Mr J Argar 01233 750311



December & January

in Elmsted with Hastingleigh

As we enter the winter months, and start spending the long evenings cosied up next to the fire, we also enter what is a busy time for many, and there are a number of events happening around the villages in the run up to the festive season. From carol singing to mince pie walks, Christmas crafts to jumble sales, do support as many as you can. We ran our competition to design the cover picture again this year and Tristan Phipps, age 6 (Rudolph) and Celeste Phipps, aged 4 (Christmas tree) were our joint winners.

The Community News team wishes you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

As always letters, articles and comments are very welcome.

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Submissions

The *Community News* takes no responsibility for misleading advertising or incorrect editorial supplied to us in good faith.

Please provide any promotional or editorial content in Word format rather than pdf. For length, grammar and style issues the Editor reserves the right to edit it.

Editorial: elmstedwithhastingleighnews@yahoo.co.uk

Advertising: shepandali@hotmail.com

Secretary: secretary.communitynews@gmail.com

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

General Builders and Property Maintenance



All aspects covered



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small projects - large projects - emergencies

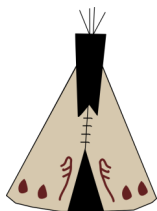
Most aspects of Household and Garden Maintenance

References available

Also

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Hastingleigh with Elmsted Women's Institute

Hastingleigh with Elmsted W.I. met on Thursday the 1st of November 2018 at the Evington Hall.

We held our Annual General meeting, in which various matters of business were discussed, Including the President's, Treasurer's and Secretary's reports for the year. The evening was

concluded with a bring and share supper. Our next meeting will be on Thursday the 6th December at 7.30 p.m., which will be our Christmas meal out. Our regular meetings will start again in the New Year, Thursday 3rd January, any new members will be made most welcome.

Marie Wenham.



Hastingleigh with Elmsted WI invite you to a

Crafternoon

to raise funds for **Mind**

at Evington Hall on Sunday 9th December 2018 at 2pm
Christmas themed crafts for both children and adults
Craft not your thing? Come along for tea and cake



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Wye PPG

Helping Ourselves

We are approaching the coldest months of the year which is when we seem to suffer most from viruses, colds and flu. When we are feeling unwell, or are worried about a child, it helps to gather information which could answer our questions without having to make an appointment with a doctor or call the NHS 111 service. The Wye surgery website www.wyesurgery.co.uk has a section for Self Help which has much useful information. The symptom checker lets you investigate a range of common problems, offers advice on treatments from the pharmacist and identifies when to see a doctor. The section on childhood illnesses is particularly helpful for parents when children are ill as it's hard to know when it's serious or how long a child is infectious for. There are articles on healthy living and links to a range of services locally.

The following chart from the website shows how to differentiate between having a cold or flu.

Flu

- *Appears quickly within a few hours
- *Affects more than just your nose and throat
- *Makes you feel exhausted and too unwell to carry on as normal

Cold

- *Appears gradually
- *Affects mainly your nose and throat
- *Makes you feel unwell, but you're OK to carry on as normal (for example, go to work)

Flu jabs are available at the surgery !

Other sources of self help and information are the Ask My GP section of the surgery website, which has information articles on a range of problems and the "Health help now" app for Kent and Medway. If you need to seek treatment from a minor injuries clinic or A & E, the "Waitless" app will tell you the waiting time for each clinic and the distance from where you are.

What if I don't use the internet ?

Not everyone is on line so your best source of information and / or help is your local pharmacist. They will be able to advise on a wide range of symptoms and offer treatments or advice on when to contact the Doctor or hospital. Being able to help yourself saves time, money and anxiety.

I hope you stay well this winter.
Penny Haynes Chair, Wye Surgery PPG



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Commemoration of the Centenary of the End of the Great

The Parish Councils would like to extend a very grateful vote of thanks to

- The Jakeman family for lighting their beacon on the evening of the 11th November.
- Celia Jeffery for producing the new poppy trough for the War Memorial.
- Chris Jeffery for playing the Last Post 3 times in one day for the parishes.

- Bodsham School Year 5 pupils for the research they undertook on each of the fallen 1st World War soldiers named on the War Memorial.
- Poppy and Edward Courtenay-Snipp for their poppy creations for each soldier and for the War Memorial and for the loan of the fantastic model bunker.

It was certainly a very well supported occasion.

Benefice Church Service and Lunch St. Mary the Virgin, Hastingleigh

On February 3rd 2019, the Revd John Hewes will be officiating in church for the last time, and we do hope as many as possible will come to be with John and Peggy on this occasion. John was our priest in Hastingleigh, after working in industry, and then went to Lydd as Rector. On his retirement from there, he came back to live in Hastingleigh and has been active throughout the Benefice. The service will be at 10.30 and will be followed by lunch for all who wish it in the village at Evington Hall.

If you would like lunch, please ring or email Roz Bacon, before Sunday 27th January, on 01233 750327 or roz.bacon@btinternet.com

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Happy Christmas from the Vicarage.

Here's wishing everyone in Elmsted, Hastingsleigh, Petham and Waltham, a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a blessed New Year.

To all who are not on their own at Christmas, please keep an eye out for anyone who is, and if possible, offer them company.

Do join us at one of our two services on Christmas morning, at Petham or Hastingsleigh. Come in your Christmassy outfit, (I'll have mine on!) maybe bring a present to show, we'd love to see you all.

Whatever you're doing at this festive time of year, God Bless and thank you for all your support.



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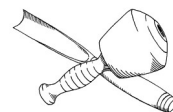
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Future- Proofing Our Hall

We are lucky to live in a beautiful part of the country, with a small and close community. At the centre of our community is the Evington Hall which provides us with a place to meet and celebrate and be entertained. To help future-proof the Hall, there is a proposal to put solar panels on its south facing roof (the side away from the road), and to install batteries and an electric car charging point in the car park. Why?

The panels: should generate more electricity than the hall consumes over the year, and more than defray the electricity bill, thus saving on running costs. In addition, the government's Feed in Tariff (FIT) would generate additional income to help with maintaining the building.

The batteries: would capture energy generated during the day so that it could be used at night, when the demand is greatest.

This would allow the Hall to make best use of the panels and maximise the return on the investment.

The car charging point: is a reflection that the move to electric vehicles is gaining pace, and we expect there to be an increasing number of visitors to the village, and people and organisations who rent or use the hall, who would use it. It might even encourage new or existing groups to consider renting the Hall, which is an important part of its income. The electricity would be sold at a modest profit, but is intended primarily as a local resource.

The total project would cost c £15,000. If we are unable to raise the whole amount, we have the option to postpone the purchase of the batteries and car charging elements (c £5,000 and £1,000 respectively), and even to reduce the number of panels purchased initially, but it is a bit of a race against time, as only panels installed by April will benefit from the government Feed in Tariff.

Over and above the financial benefits, there is of course an extra objective, which is to contribute to the reduction of

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Our Hall Cont.

greenhouse gas emissions to combat climate change, which will change our weather and landscape irreversibly.

The investment is unaffordable for the Hall itself, which maintains modest financial reserves as a buffer against a rainy day, so we will need to raise it in other ways. Applications to local grant-giving foundations have met with a mixed response, with some saying no, balanced by an extremely generous gift from the Sir Charles Jessel Charitable Trust.

We are now looking to ask people to consider some form of

support. This could be in the form of a donation (the Hall is a registered charity, so donations that are Gift Aided bring benefit to both donor and recipient!) or advice and suggestions about how we might raise c £10,000 over the next few months.

Thoughts, suggestions, requests for more information or donations are all welcome. The clock is ticking, so don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to help or know more.

Will Day

william.day@phonecoop.coop

Robin Helmer

robin.helmer@btinternet.com

Remembrance Sunday

Many thanks to the parish councillors who organised and gave us such a fitting end to Remembrance Sunday 2018.

It was a beautiful evening up at Elmsted with Chris playing,

the church bells ringing and the beacon flaring; and there was a warming spirit in the village hall with food and singing.

P.S. And how moving was the work done by Bodsham School Year 5's!

RB



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SEASONAL THANKS

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 22nd December
in Evington Village Hall
from 10.30am – 12.00pm**



Please do come along and join us for a Christmas thank you, hope to see you there!

We will also be holding an additional draw of the 100+ Club with 4 additional Prizes! Come along and see if you are a winner.

from Evington Community Project

‘So they do say...!’

The Village Pond was once the scene of an attempted drowning of an old woman who was passing through Hastingleigh and was set upon by the villagers accusing her of witchcraft. She was rescued by the vicar who took her to church to

make her confession and receive absolution. This was most likely in the mid 17th century.

In Little Wenlock, Shropshire, a girl and two men were hanged together on the 13th April 1546. The girl, Alice Glaston was the youngest known legally executed person in Britain and for an unknown crime, but most likely witchcraft. She was 11 years old.

TW

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EVINGTON VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

Charity Nos.302758



SATURDAY 26TH JANUARY AT 2PM. EVINGTON VILLAGE HALL HASTINGLEIGH

We need your quality jumble.
No electrical equipment or large items
of furniture please.
All proceeds will go to the
Village hall funds.

Please contact:

Kate Day 01233 750495/07831127192

Sue Lawson 01233 750288/07591024657



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Hastingleigh

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Thursday 20th December
6pm Start



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www.thebowlonline.co.uk

New Year's Day Walk



**Starting from
Evington Hall at 11.00 am**

Why not brush off those 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!



Everyone Welcome

Mulled Wine & Mince Pies at the Finish!



MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT

followed by

SUPPER

(3 Courses plus Tea / Coffee)

Saturday 15th December at 7pm

The Flute Studio Players:

Phoebe Bognár, Lindsay Bryden, Agnè Burbaitè,
Rachel Hicks, Kumjung Lee, Inna Leoni and
Trevor Wye

EVINGTON HALL

Admission: £15.00

(Must be booked in advance)

Reservations -
Sheila Burrage (01233 750375)

The doors will open at 6.30pm
No admissions once the music has begun.

*All proceeds in aid of St. Mary's Church, Hastingsleigh
and Evington Hall*

Church services in the Parish Upon The Hills		
02/12	First Sunday	16.30 - Petham Advent Service - Group service for all four churches
09/12	Second Sunday	08.00 - Waltham - BCP Communion 10.00 - Bodsham School - Messy Church 11.00 - Petham - Communion
16/12	Third Sunday	11:00 - Hastingleigh - Communion 11:00 - Petham - Crib Service & Nativity 16.30 - Waltham - Carol Service 17.00 - Elmsted - Choral Evensong
23/12	Fourth Sunday	09:30 - Elmsted – Group Service for all four churches
24/12	Christmas Eve	16.00 - Hastingleigh - Crib Service 23.00 - Waltham - Midnight Mass
25/12	Christmas Day	10:00 - Petham - Family Communion with Carols 10:00 - Hastingleigh - Family Communion with Carols
30/12	Fifth Sunday	10:30 - Wye Benefice - Group Service for all of the Benefice

Priest-in-charge: The Rev Ravi Holy: The Vicarage, Wye 01233 812450 ravi.holy@wyebenefice.org.uk **Associate priest:** The Rev Lorraine Lawrence (with special responsibility for Hastingleigh, Elmsted, Petham, Waltham): The Vicarage, Hastingleigh, 01233 750987 or 07894 034409 lorraine_lawrence@btinternet.com. **Churchwardens:** Mrs Bacon 01233 750327, Mrs R Doyle 01227 700296. **United Wye Benefice** 01233 813793 www.wyebenefice.org.uk

Diary Dates - December

Tues	4th	Toddlers	09.30 - 12.00
Weds	5th	Coffee Morning	10.30 - 11.30
		Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00
Sun	9th	Crafternoon	14.00 - 16.30
		Footpath Group (Bull Town)	13.30
Tues	11th	Toddlers	09.30 - 12.00
		Library Van	09.45 - 10.15
		Evington Gardeners	19.30 - 22.00
Thurs	13th	Elmsted PC Meeting	19.30
Fri	14th	Whist Drive	19.00 - 22.00
Sat	15th	Christmas Concert & Supper	18.30 - 22.00
Tues	18th	Toddler Group	09.30 - 12.00
Sat	22nd	ECP Seasonal Thanks	10.30 - 12.00

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

All events at the village hall unless otherwise stated

This month's church flowers and cleaning volunteers:

	St Mary's	St James'
Nov 24th	Mrs Boxall	Mrs Gregory
Dec 1st	Mrs Pell	Mrs Pay
Dec 8th	Mrs Young	Mrs Fox
Dec 15th	Mrs Courtney	Mrs Leutner
	Mrs Jerrom	
Dec 22nd	Mrs Bowes	Mrs Green
Dec 29th	Mrs Helmer	Mrs Calcutt
	Mrs Green	

Church services in the Parish Upon The Hills

07/01	First Sunday	09.30 - Waltham - Group service for all four churches
14/01	Second Sunday	08.00 - Waltham - BCP Communion 10.00 - Bodsham School - Messy Church 11.00 - Petham - Communion
16/12	Third Sunday	09.30 - Waltham - Communion 11.00 - Hastingleigh - Communion 11.00 - Petham - Family Service 17.00 - Elmsted - Choral Evensong
23/12	Fourth Sunday	09:30 - Petham - Family Communion 11.00 - Hastingleigh - Communion

This month's church flowers and cleaning volunteers:

	St Mary's	St James'
Jan 5th Jan 12th	Mrs Bacon, Mrs Geering Mrs Sharp Mrs Hill	Mrs London, Ms Flitney Mrs Francesconi
Jan 19th Jan 26th	Dr & Mrs Lawson Mrs Day	Mrs McFarlane Mrs Hewson



St Mary the Virgin



*St James the Great
Elmsted*

Diary Dates - January

Tues	1st	Footpath Group (Mince Pie Walk)	11.00
Weds	2nd	Coffee Morning	10.30 - 11.30
Thurs	3rd	W.I Meeting	19.30 - 22.00
Tues	8th	Toddlers	09.30 - 12.00
Weds	9th	Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00
Fri	11th	Whist Drive	19.00 - 22.00
Tues	15th	Toddler Group	09.30 - 12.00
		Evington Gardeners	19.30 - 22.00
Weds	16th	Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00
Tues	22nd	Toddler Group	09.30 - 12.00
Weds	23rd	Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00
Sat	26th	Jumble Sale	14.00 - 16.30
Tues	29th	Toddler Group	09.30 - 12.00
		Evington Hall Executive Meeting	19.30 - 21.30
Weds	30th	Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00

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

All events at the village hall unless otherwise stated

JUMBLE SALE

Our annual jumble sale will be held on the 26th January at 2pm in the Evington Hall. We need your jumble but cannot accept any electrical equipment or large items of furniture.

For any information about when and where to bring your jumble please contact either

Kate Day 01233 750495/07831127192 or

Sue Lawson 01233 750288/07591024657.

Please support this event as it is one of our main fundraisers for the hall. Thank you .

News From Bodsham School

Remembering the fallen

This month, as the nation has commemorated the end of the great war, our school children have been busy selling poppies and learning all about World War 1 and remembrance. The children in year 5 have been researching local servicemen and paid a visit to Hastingleigh and Elmsted War memorial to lay a wreath. They then had the opportunity to present the biographies they had written to Mrs Block and local councillors. The biographies were then placed on Perspex silhouettes of the soldiers and after Remembrance Sunday were positioned around Hastingleigh and Elmsted in memory of the soldiers.

The school is proud to have joined the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral scheme and our

children visit this hugely significant building on a regular basis. The year 6 children paid a visit as part of the special Cathedral Schools day this month, visiting prayer stations and participating in workshops. Two Bodsham students were even asked to help lead the worship service at the end of the day, representing our school with great maturity.

Mr Newton, head teacher at Bodsham has received a letter from Nick Gibb, Minister of State for School Standards, congratulating the school on the excellent phonics results we achieved last June. As a vital step towards fluent reading, helping children understand the phonics rules of our language gives them confidence to tackle any word they care to read. In 2018 our year 1 children achieved a 100% pass rate in the National Phonics Check, which puts our school in the top 3% of all primary schools in the country. Another outstanding achievement.

The school and PFA are still working hard to raise funds towards replacing the computers in our ICT suite. The conker event in October was very successful and well received despite the rainy weather and upcoming Christmas events will continue to raise

Bodsham School Cont.

money for this project. As
always, if anyone feels they wish
to donate towards our fund-
raising efforts, then please do

feel free to contact the school.

Bodsham Parents and Friends
Association

BODSHAM CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



OPEN MORNING/AFTERNOONS FOR YEAR R 2019

We will be holding open mornings/afternoons on

Wednesday 21st November 11am

Thursday 29th November 2pm

Friday 7th December 2pm

Friday 11th January 2019 11am

**Please notify the office if you would like to come and
visit us!**

Telephone 01233 750374

admin@bodsham.kent.sch.uk

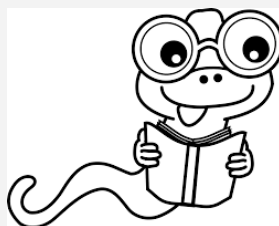
Executive Head teacher - Mr P. Newton



Club Draw

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

1st Prize: No. 29
2nd Prize: No: 68
3rd Prize: No: 54



Library Van

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parked in the village hall
carpark on Tuesday 11th
December 09.45 - 10.15.

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🌿 **THE BOWL INN** 🌿

Hastingleigh

Christmas Opening Times 2018

Monday 24th December- 12 until 6pm
Tuesday 25th December- 12 until 3pm
Wednesday 26th December- 12 until 3pm
Thursday 27th December- Closed
Friday 28th December- 5 until 11pm
Saturday 29th December- 12 until 9pm
Sunday 30th December- 12 until 9pm
New Years Eve- 5 until late
Tuesday 1st January- Closed
Wednesday 2nd January- Closed
Thursday 3rd January- 5 until 9pm





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Letters to the Editor

We write in response to the Letter to the Editor published on page 23 of the recent Community News and in our capacity as Managing Agents for the land adjacent to Tamley Lane.

The product spread was not untreated human excrement, but paper sludge – a bi-product of paper recycling at Kemsley Paper Mill. Paper sludge adds nutrition and organic matter to the land and is spread only after soil analysis is used to demonstrate that the product is beneficial to agriculture. Its application decreases the need for artificial fertiliser, the manufacture of which produces significant volumes of carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide.

Spreading is planned and carried out by a professional contractor so as not to harm groundwater nor spread in close proximity to sensitive sites such as ancient woodlands or monuments. Each deployment is authorised in advance by the National Permitting Service of the Environment Agency. Cultivation of the land to incorporate the paper sludge occurred within 24 hours, in line with the requirements of Cross

Compliance which state that this should be done as soon as practicable.

Occasionally it is necessary for farmers to work late into the evening, cultivating and harvesting to grow crops for food production. We do this no more than is required and thank you for your understanding as we tend to the countryside during these busy periods.

Robert Gazely

Senior Associate Director, Farming Department, Strutt & Parker

Dear Editor,

Maybe the resident who sent the article in should move to the town if he/she does not like the way the countryside works.

The farmers need to work to provide us with food, keep the roads clear of snow and hedges cut back. I can't believe anyone would want to be working in the fields at night unless it was absolutely necessary.

Anon



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MARK HUDSON:

27th September
1960 to 26th
September 2018

Many of you may remember Mark, who lived in the village at Court Lodge Oast for several years before moving to Kennington around 5 years ago. Sadly, Mark passed away in September, on the day before his 58th birthday, following a long illness. His mother, sister and niece were at his side when he died.

Mark was often seen in his red van (amongst other vehicles he owned) travelling between jobs: cutting lawns (he looked after the churchyard for several years), laying hedges, carrying out odd jobs and generally making himself useful with all the little tasks many tradespeople don't have time for. If a tree was down in Church Lane, Mark was there with his chainsaw to clear the way.

Mark had a varied set of skills to offer: he worked on the Royal Yacht Britannia as a steward and chef, he studied aspects of farming at university and was a Community Policeman for a time, to mention just a few. He

was never happier than when he was outdoors. All through his working life, he volunteered within his community: in Hastingleigh, he regularly helped Eileen Bartlett with her garden, was a stalwart of the Village Breakfast (where he wielded a mean frying pan to produce delicious Full English breakfasts!), and was instrumental in the set-up of the Wye Community Farm. He volunteered as a chef in Ashford, supporting the Ashford Christian Fellowship (ACF), and he gradually moved his focus to work with that church regularly, helping with the sound system during services and generally fixing and serving wherever he could. He recently volunteered in Africa, where he met his fiancée. They were due to be married next year.

Mark was a lovely person: tall, good-looking and strong, but self-effacing and eager to help others. He was a true Christian who lived his faith: he put himself last, he never turned down anyone who needed help, and he truly placed his trust in God. This unerring belief helped him in his last weeks. He was supported in hospital by his church's congregation, and their love for him was apparent at his funeral at ACF on Tuesday, 6th November.

Many of you will have your own happy memories of Mark and could add to the list of his good deeds. Those of us who knew him, will never forget this truly Godly man. SF

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Farming Notebook

Stocking fillers on the farm

Time to get out the darning needle. As Christmas Eve nears those socks that are to hang by the hearth must be ready. To be filled, hopefully..., with goodies from Santa's sack. We have permanent problems with wool hungry moths, despite cedar wood, lavender and various concoctions, so a bit of repair is called for.

One of the earlier European traditions of the "stocking" came from Scandinavia. The socks hung by the hearth were filled with hay and carrots. These were to provide nourishment for Odin's horse Sleipnir to help speed him across the mid-winter sky. Odin, grateful for the fodder for his eight-legged steed, left gifts and sweets.

Of course, our Christian tradition has the jovial St Nicholas taking on this task. In many parts of Europe, it is the 6th of December when St Nick pays a visit. Children have their shoes filled with chocolates and nuts, but only if they have been good...

Here at home it is the night of Christmas eve when Sinter Klaas, as he is known in Holland hitches up his eight reindeer to a sleigh brimming with stocking fillers ready for a very busy night. Crossing the North Sea, probably on a Dutch passport, he visits every child and fills their stockings hung with care at the foot of the bed or on the hearth.

It is hard work and both Santa and his reindeer need to have some sustenance...

We will of course leave some carrots from the veg patch and good quality hay to provide some refreshment for this livestock powered sleigh (a reindeer is equivalent to about 0.44 of a horse, each with an energy requirement of about 15,000 calories on a heavy working night, so that is a lot of hay and carrots...). I think maybe that we should add a little rolled barley and oats from our cattle winter rations. In addition, a little glass of something for Santa. Pear juice I think as he is driving, and perhaps a savoury morsel of a minced beef pie with potatoes, homemade and home produced of course...

Now at High Chimney Farm we have written a short list for Santa. In hope, not expectation. And in these times of environmental awareness, we have tried to keep the items on the list simple, and with low sleigh miles.

First into the toe of the sock perhaps an apple rather than an orange. Whilst there are actually a

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Farming Cont.

few orange trees in Kent, apples of course are much more prolific in our Garden of Eden!! Our preference would perhaps be a Kent produced "Jazz" or "Rubens". Or perhaps it will be a more seasonally named apple variety such as Joybells, Winter Gem, Pink Sparkle or Christmas Pearmain !

Nuts are a traditional stocking filler, symbolising health and happiness for the coming year. And again, we hope for the local option of a Kentish Cobnut or Filbert, a variety of cultivated hazelnut, acclaimed since the late Middle Ages, for their fine taste. These larger types of hazelnuts were used to play an early version of "conkers". The winning nut was called the "cob". A must for the stocking. Hopefully, local walnuts too will be added.

Now for the sweet tooth...Those vibrant red and white candy sticks, always look so festive. They are reputedly of German origin. In the 1600s, when a choirmaster anxious to keep the choristers quiet during the non-singing parts of the Christmas Mass, made candy sticks for them to eat. Keeping a religious bent, he shaped them in the form of a crook to remind the choir boys of the shepherds in the nativity story. Apart from these sweets we have a slightly larger stick on our list. Many years ago we visited a large cattle market in France. All the drovers were using bright yellow

sticks made out of re-cycled plastic. About two feet long, in the shape of a walking stick and slightly weighted at the bottom end, these sticks are fantastic for moving cattle. Their bright colour and held with an out-stretched arm gives the illusion of a wide barrier. This and a tap on the ground is all that is needed to quietly move cattle in the yards, the fields, the woods or even the Minnis. Not available in the UK, we hope Santa can stop off a find some-they really won't take up any room in the sleigh.

Now every stocking should have a toy. This has been a tradition since Victorian times. Farmers are renowned for liking new toys. Anything from a cordless impact wrench to a shiny new combine harvester. Someone in this house is still furiously writing his list....(It is a very long list!)

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

From all at High Chimney Farm



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Christmas Trivia

- Hanging stockings out comes from the Dutch custom of leaving shoes packed with food for St Nicholas's donkeys. He would leave small gifts in return.
 - The tradition of putting tangerines in stockings comes from 12th-century French nuns who left socks full of fruit, nuts and tangerines at the houses of the poor.
 - It's technically illegal to eat mince pies on Christmas Day in England. In the 17th century, Oliver Cromwell banned Christmas pudding, mince pies and anything to do with gluttony. The law has never been rescinded.
 - Why red, gold and green? Green has long been a symbol of life and rebirth; red symbolizes the blood of Christ, and gold represents light as well as wealth and royalty.
 - The Christmas cracker was invented by a London sweet shop owner called Tom Smith. In 1847, after spotting French bonbons wrapped in paper with a twist at each end, he sold similar sweets with a "love motto" inside. He then included a little trinket and a "bang". His "Bangs of Expectation" included gifts such as jewellery and miniature dolls. By 1900, he was selling 13 million a year.
- (Facts taken from www.tomango.co.uk)

From Our Neighbours

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We would like 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 2018.

We wish you all a very Happy Christmas
and a Peaceful New Year
and look forward to seeing you all again in 2019

Our first event of 2019 is our
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on Saturday 23rd February, 10am-4pm
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