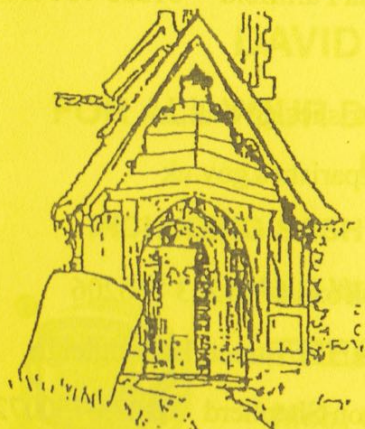


Elmsted with Hastingleigh

Community News

*St. James the Great
Elmsted*



*St. Mary The Virgin
Hastingleigh*

April 2014 40p

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Churchwarden: Mrs Roz Bacon 01233 750327

Hon. Secretary PCC: Mrs Selina Farnfield 01233 750450

PARISH WEBSITES

www.elmstedpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

www.hastingleighpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

COMMUNITY NEWS

Editor Mrs Sue Boxall 01233 750206

Quackers, The Street, Hastingleigh

Advertising Manager Mrs Alison Shepherd 01233 750072

Little Gains Cottage, TN25 5JU

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elmstedwithhastingleighnews@yahoo.co.uk

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EVINGTON COMMUNITY PROJECT

SPRING FAIR

Monday 5th May, 2014

On the football field, Hastingleigh

12.30



Raffle - Tombola - BBQ

Beer Tent - Teas - Cake Sale - Craft Stall

Plant Sale - Coconut Shy - Bouncy Castle

Bodsham School Merry Making Maypole Dancers

Art Exhibition in Evington Village Hall

and many more attractions



Although Malcolm Withnall's talk, 'less pain, more gain', at the meeting in February, was aimed ostensibly at the over 70s, he also made the excellent point at the outset that it is difficult to get younger people interested in gardening. With their busy lives and work patterns there was a need to present them too with easier alternatives. How we can manage gardening with greater ease as we get older is also a subject not covered in gardening programmes on the TV and radio. Mr Withnall gave some useful tips: warm up before starting, plan gardening, tackle lighter jobs before heavier ones and choose a simple design with less grass, fewer beds and borders and less bedding. Sometimes less can be more, so try using many plants of the same species and consider parterres – a 'boxed garden' using one plant species in each 'box'. Evergreens, such as Pittosporum, Rhamnus and Choisya ternata, make light work and give year-round pleasure. Take also into account the soil; the better the condition of the soil the less work, composting is essential to increase the water retention in the soil saving not only labour but also water. Members were also encouraged to consider raised beds, growbags (with several successive crops from each bag) and to think more vertically with troughs and wall pouches. A couple of final suggestions were robotic mowers and artificial grass! Mr Withnall gave everyone much food for thought.

By the time this appears in print members will have enjoyed a talk entitled, 'interesting plants on my travels', given by Gillian Ellis. The AGM is on 15 April after which the new season begins. Watch this space, or ring me for further details.

J.P.

My Triumph sports car is 60 years old in April, and after a long time in a barn in Suffolk is coming to Hastingleigh. I would like to rent a dry, secure garage, ideally with a power socket, for the next 12 months, and possibly for longer. Can anyone help?

If so, contact Will Day - 01233 750495

ELMSTED CHURCH

LUNCHES & TEAS



Sunday 25th May, 2014

Noon - 4pm

There will be delicious home cooked lunches and an array of home baked cakes and deserts.

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TO ALL PATIENTS OF WYE SURGERY

The Patient Participation Group for Wye Surgery will hold their
Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 9th April at 7.15 pm
in the Surgery waiting room.

All members of the public are welcome to attend.

HASTINGLEIGH WITH ELMSTED WI

Hastingleigh with Elmsted W.I. met on Thursday 6th of March at Evington Hall.

Fourteen members attended. The minutes of the last meeting were read and agreed.

Our speaker was Mr. Nick Sandford, manager of Godinton House and he spoke to us about the life of the house and garden during 2012. He started by showing us photos of the garden in the snow, leading us through the changing seasons. He showed us pictures of their fund raising plant fair, the weekend teaching events, photos of some of the thousands of cakes that were made for their tearooms, the summer musical and open air theatre events, and the dredging of the river that runs through the grounds. He was an informative speaker and this non-gardening member learned a lot about flowers from him from the beautiful pictures of irises, wisteria and delphiniums. We enjoyed the photos so much we are considering a visit to the house and garden in the summer.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday 3rd of April at 7.30 p.m., and our speaker will be talking on the subject of 'Glenn Miller lives on'. New members will be made very welcome.

Fiona Steward

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Memories of Ron Martin (aged 97)

Last month Ron Marsh told us of some of his experiences as a schoolboy during WWII. Ron Martin was 22 years old when war started and was working in agriculture (a reserve occupation) but got involved in "Hush Hush" work. This primarily involved in learning to blow up the Germans if they arrived in Kent (distinct possibility when "the buttons on their uniforms glinted in the sun" in Calais in 1940, when looking out from Dover.*)

With Ron in the resistance patrol of Hastingleigh (named 'Haricot') were Peter Leonard, Trevor Lockwood, Jack Long from Withersdane and Alan Chester who lived on White Hill, Wye (where the stone mushrooms are on the roadside). Once a month they met with other local patrols like 'Carrot' of Crundale at The Garth at Bilting.

Everything they did was top secret and every man had to know their area so well that they could move quickly across the country as if they were blindfolded.

'Haricot' met first in the cellars of Evington Mansion and later in the Ice House located in the hillside. Explosives were stored in 7 bunkers under a table and the men learnt to use them, setting traps across the roads etc and also how to use Smith & Weston revolvers and the American "Tommy Gun"; fortunately these skills were not needed.

RB

* Quote from Roz Bacon's father in law.

*Sadly, since talking to Ron in Wye, he has died.
Our condolences go to Joyce.*

COFFEE MORNINGS



A reminder and an invitation (especially to newer residents) about the coffee (and tea) mornings held from 10.30am on the first Weds of each month. Drop in for a friendly chat; get to know the neighbours. The times coincide with the visit from the library van and there are also books available from the Hall collection. We look forward to seeing you.

IN THE GARDEN

One of the most important aspects of gardening is timing. I am not a great one for making gardening hard work so any way I can reduce the effort needed to produce the effect I want the better. By timing I mean doing the jobs when the weather and the opportunity coincide.

This year the fine weather in early March has offset the earlier wet period. It has stimulated plant growth and the minimum frosts have allowed some plants to survive the winter when they would normally not do so. It has also allowed many weeds to germinate, develop and seed again. Weeding is crucial at this time of year to prevent them doing this. Heavy rain tends to consolidate the soil and makes it more liable to compact when you want to walk on it. Digging the vegetable patch is easier in the dry periods, it opens the soil allowing more air into the soil providing more oxygen for the plant roots and soil organisms allowing them to be more active. Spreading organic material like compost opens the texture of the soil in the same way and releases fertilizer into the soil.

It is a good time to introduce inorganic fertilizer to the soil. Particularly those that contain nitrogen like "Growmore" as the heavy rains of the winter will have washed much of this out of the soil.

Digging around your perennials to loosen the soil will improve their development. Adding slow release fertilizer like hoof and horn will encourage healthier plants to develop. It is important to remember when you cut and remove plant material you are removing nutrients (fertilizer) and this should be replaced. This is particularly important with the lawn. Now is the time to apply weed and feed to the lawn.

There is still time to move shrubs and some perennials taking care to cut back any soft growth.

The plant controls its temperature by evaporating water from the leaves. To do this it must get a supply from the soil through the roots so cutting back the top of the plant when replanting compensates for the inability of the roots to supply water and gives time for the roots to develop as the plant develops.

Tidy up now and make the summer more enjoyable.

SB

CHURCH SERVICES AT HASTINGLEIGH AND ELMSTED IN APRIL

Sunday 30 th March	10.30 Hastingleigh Mothering Sunday Service	
Sunday 6 th April	9.30 Holy Communion at Elmsted (CW)	
Sunday 13 th April	10.00 Bodsham Family Service – Palm Sunday	
Friday 18 th April	12 noon Hastingleigh Good Friday - Stations of the Cross	
Saturday 19 th April	7pm Elmsted Benefice Easter Vigil Service	
Sunday 20 th April	11.00 Hastingleigh EASTER DAY Service (CW)	
Sunday 27 th April	9.30 Elmsted Holy Communion (CW)	11.00 Hastingleigh Holy Communion (BCP) 4.00 Sunday Teatime at Evington Hall, Hastingleigh

Bodsham Family Service: a less formal family service for everyone. Do come and try it!

Sunday Teatime: At Sunday Teatime, we have fun, chat and explore our faith. Come for the company, the activities, the tea or the worship, or all four! All ages welcome at Evington Hall, Hastingleigh at 4pm.

CHURCH FLOWER & CLEANING ROTA

	St. Mary's Hastingleigh	St. James' Elmsted
Apr 5th	Mrs Bowes	Mrs Healy
Apr 12th	Mrs Helmer	Mrs Denny
Apr 19th	Mrs Morris	Mrs Gregory
Apr 26th	Mrs Waters	Mrs Pay



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed 2nd	Coffee Morning	10.30am
Thurs 3rd	WI Meeting (Page 17)	7.30pm
Tues 8th	Hastingleigh Parish Council Meeting	7.45pm
Sun 13th	Footpath Walk	2.00pm
Tues 15th	Gardeners Society AGM (Pages 14 & 26)	7.30pm
Sat 26th	Bodsham School Music Night (Page 17)	7.00pm
Sun 27th	Sunday Tea Time	4.00pm

Note: All events in Evington Village Hall unless otherwise stated.

Parent & Todler Group meet every Tuesday - 9.30am

Mobile Library every Wednesday 10.55am - 11.20am

Art Group meet on Thursdays 9.30am - 12.30pm

BACK WITH A BANG

Going up to the Village Hall for 'An Evening of Entertainment and Song' staged by the Evington Players brought back happy memories for many of us, we have missed you!

In we all went, another full house, bought our raffle tickets, settled into our seats. We started with a showing of the Evington version of 'Amarillo' by Tony Christie where local residents stomped, tiptoed, staggered, and fell over in a very musical way, all dreamt up and videoed by Garry and Oliver Block. Then off we went into the first Act of the evening starting with a romp through the Evolution of Dance with Ryan Hill (aka Robbie Williams at times!) There was nervous tittering in the audience as we all recognized our dance floor moves being demonstrated.

Robin Helmer was really scary in the next sketch as the commandant barking at his miserable prisoners. 'Shakespeare' showcased yet more talent with a decidedly/distractingly underdressed Ryan Hill neatly encapsulating most Shakespearean characters in one. This was followed by a mind bending 'Mastermind' where all contestant Roz Bacon's answers referred back to a previous question with hilarious results.

'My Blackberry is not Working' was for the techies amongst us with lots of wordplay around brand names and fruit on Robin's fruit stall. The next sketch included newcomer to the stage Oliver Block as a talking dog, expertly underplayed and very funny.

Robin Helmer and his lovely assistant Yvonne kept us all spellbound with a heavy accent, a wayward moustache and a memory game.

The first act finished with a painful demonstration of behaviors on a first date which had us all squirming in our seats.

'A Night Out' directed by June Browning opened Act 2 where an evening out at the Pigeon Club Dinner for her parents meant an evening in for scheming daughter Doreen (Jaqueline Smallwood) and her beau Eric (Ryan Hill). Endless trivial events, a hand bag of winkles, lost shoes, wigs and the dinner tickets added to the frustration of poor Eric, clearly more than ready for an evening in. The comedy was enhanced by the parents (Paul Boxall and Carol Batcheller) magnificent hairpieces.

Revived by tea and biscuits and the raffle draw, Evington Community Choir, amazingly only singing together for 6 weeks, and decked out as Village People (who thought of that?!) ensured we all left on a high, with a medley of songs from the musicals. Lots of audience participation got all but the most recalcitrant singing lustily.

We all know what a great enterprise putting these shows on is, with lots of people supporting front and back of house. Thank you everyone for a lovely quirky evening of laughter and song.

Evington Players was formed in 1949, has put on 69 productions involving 246 local people. If you would like to join this illustrious list please contact any member of the cast. Celia Jeffery's Choir is also recruiting, she can be found at celia@livinglively.org.uk, or contact Robin Helmer on 01233 750236

The Bowl Inn

Easter Opening Times 2014



Good Friday 18th April- Open all day from midday



Saturday 19th April- Open all day from midday



Easter Sunday 20th April- Open from midday until 9pm



Easter Monday 21st April- Open from midday until 9pm



Tuesday 22nd April- Closed

EVINGTON COMMUNITY PROJECT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Chairman's Report for 2013

ECP has now completed nine years of service to the communities of Elmsted and Hastingleigh.

We held a very successful Spring Fair on the 6th May 2013 which boosted our funds by just over £1,300. The turnout was fantastic, helped no doubt, by the glorious weather on the day. In addition, we received a match-funding grant of £750 from Barclays Bank. We are very grateful to Vanessa London for facilitating this. We have ploughed all the money raised back into our community by arranging sporting and leisure events that are either free or heavily subsidised and by offering financial support to village organisations.

We were successful in receiving grant money from the Big Lottery Fund and from KCC to improve the access lane to the Football Field. This has made a tremendous difference to those visiting the field as the pot-holes and puddles appear to be a thing of the past. We served soup at the Bonfire and Fireworks night, which raised a small sum for the Kent Air Ambulance and we gave a sizeable donation towards the cost of the fireworks. We helped resurrect a village trip to France and Belgium in September, which was enjoyed by over 50 people. We continue to assist financially with the maintenance of the Football Field.

In the November half-term we held a Ceramic Painting Workshop which, once again, proved to be a popular event. ECP was pleased to be able to subsidise the cost of the items painted, thus making the event more affordable. In December, we arranged a visit for over 50 local residents and friends to the Marlowe Theatre to see "Jack and the Beanstalk". Again, ECP was able to subsidise the cost of the tickets for this.

Our annual "Seasonal Thanks" morning of Mulled Wine and Mince Pies, to say thank you to the residents and friends of our two parishes

who have generously supported ECP throughout the year, was combined with the Mince Pie Walk.

I should like to take this opportunity, once again, to thank the Evington Community Project committee who have worked tirelessly throughout the year and have given freely of their time. I should also like to thank on behalf of ECP, The Powell Family for allowing the use of their field; Sarah Pell for checking our accounts; Elmsted and Hastingleigh Parish Councils and all of you who have generously supported and assisted with our events throughout the year.

Robin Helmer

3rd March 2014

THE FIVE CHURCH WALK

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 5 MAY 2014

The walk starts at 10am from Challock, Boughton Aluph, Chilham or Molash church. It links these churches in an anticlockwise circular 16 mile route following footpaths, bridleways, country lanes and private paths, some of which are made available to us on the day by special permission of the land-owners. The route passes through some of the most scenic countryside in East Kent for all to enjoy, and with the bluebells out and the cuckoo calling you can be sure of a lovely day. You can choose to complete the circuit or not, **starting and finishing at any of the churches**. This is a sponsored walk in aid of the participating churches, the Kent Air Ambulance and/or the Pilgrims Hospices, and funds raised are distributed according to your wishes as indicated on the entry form. Those without sponsors are just as welcome and are asked to make a donation of at least £5. Each church also has delicious home-made refreshments (and loos) to offer while you take a welcome break.

So, for a great day out make a note of the date in your diary and make sure to come along

EVINGTON GARDENERS

PLANT SALE

AT THE SPRING FAIR

Football field, Hastingleigh

MONDAY 5th MAY

noon onwards

Lots of lovely plants supplied by

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Easter Revision Sessions

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Petham Village Hall 14th – 17th April

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Ravi asks 'What does Easter mean to you?'

While Christmas is a bigger deal in society as a whole, Easter is the most important festival of the Christian year. Indeed, the Christian religion only exists because of the first Easter. If Jesus of Nazareth hadn't risen from the dead – or, at least, if his disciples hadn't been convinced that he had – there would be no Christianity and we would never even have heard of Jesus. But even if he did rise from the dead, what does that mean for us today?

Well, believing that three heads are better than one (and, of course, the church teaches that that's true of God Himself who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit!) I asked my two colleagues Alan and Linda to say what Easter means to them.

Alan responded by asking another question:

What is the churchyard for you? Is it a place of death or a promise of new life? I am sure you saw the glory of the daffodils last month. Did you notice the tree of the cherry family near the war memorial that flowers whenever there is a mild spell in the winter? More recently the eco-congregation group have seen the first signs of the snowdrops we have planted. One day we might put on "snowdrop teas" with a show to rival Challock and Hinxhill. We try to manage the yard for your convenience and to encourage nature.

Many people say to me, "Isn't it wonderful, signs of new life". True, but it will all die again next winter, then another spring and so on. Easter for me is the promise that life and death are not an endless cycle, what goes round comes around! Jesus shows us what the future is really like. He showed us what God intends for us by the way he lived, died and then was experienced as really alive, never to die again. That is his offer and promise to you. So why not come and join in the celebration?

Meanwhile, here's Linda's take:

Easter is all about enjoying God's new creation now. The picture that comes to mind is that of the new kingdom of Narnia brought about by the return of Aslan, and vividly described by CS Lewis at the end of his Chronicles of Narnia.

It is as hard to explain how this new sunlit land of Narnia was different from the old Narnia as it would be to tell you how the fruits of that country taste. Perhaps you will get some idea of it if you think like this. You may have been in a room where there was a window that looked out on a lovely bay of the sea or a green valley that wound away among mountains. And in the wall of that room opposite to the window there may have been a looking-glass. And as you turned away from the window you suddenly caught sight of that sea or that valley, all over again, in the looking-glass. And the sea in the mirror, or the valley in the mirror, were in one sense just the same as the real ones: yet at the same time they were somehow different –

deeper more wonderful, more like places in a story; in a story you have never heard but very much want to know. The difference between the old Narnia and the new Narnia was like that. The new one was a deeper country: every rock and flower and blade of grass looked as if it meant more. I can't describe it any better than that: if ever you get there you will know what I mean. It was the unicorn who summed up what everyone was feeling. He stamped his right fore-hoof on the ground and neighed, and then cried: 'I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here! This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now.'

So, what about me? Well, funnily enough, Easter Sunday 1990 was the first time I went to church as a believing Christian – as opposed to being dragged there by my parents or forced to go at school.

I'd declared myself an atheist at the age of 15 but had fairly quickly decided that there was Something rather than Nothing. A spiritual dimension to life. And I then spent a few years trying to work out what that might involve.

By the time I was 19, I'd decided that there was a personal God – that is, a Supreme Being or Intelligence (please pardon all the capitals!) – even if none of the organised religions had a monopoly on access to Him, Her or It. And by the time I was 21, I'd been irresistibly drawn to the unexpected but clear conclusion that this God was the God revealed in the person of Jesus not some other god.

Sceptics would no doubt say that I was simply returning to the faith of my youth (as predicted by the Jesuit Ignatius Loyola who famously said 'Give me a child before he's seven and I'll make him a catholic for life') but clearly I don't see it like that. I believe that the real God called me to become part of the 2000 year old community (The Christian Church) which was and is founded on the admittedly-bizarre proclamation that this man Jesus who was murdered on a cross and buried in a tomb was subsequently seen alive again.

I finally became convinced of that on Holy Saturday (the day before Easter Sunday) 1990 so the next day I went (back) to church for the first time saying 'OK, God, here I am' and I haven't looked back since. Indeed, I ended up becoming a priest.

Clearly, God is at work outside the Church as well as in it but, for me, the Church (by which I mean what the Prayer Book calls 'the blessed company of all faithful people' not just the Church of England) is – strange as it may seem – the primary locus of God's activity in this world. Or as the Bible puts it, the very Body of Christ. And, like Alan, I would like to invite all of you to take your place within it.

Happy Easter.

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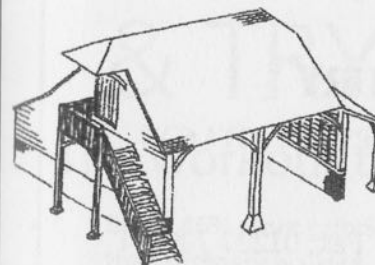
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