

A landscape photograph of a rural valley. In the foreground, a grassy hillside slopes down towards a river. The middle ground features a river flowing through a valley, with fields and a line of trees on the opposite bank. A few buildings are visible near the river. The sky is filled with heavy, grey clouds, with a hint of light breaking through near the horizon.

# Elmsted with Hastingleigh Community News

February 2021

40p



# Elmsted and Hastingleigh Community Contacts

Elmsted Parish Council  
[www.elmstedpc.org.uk](http://www.elmstedpc.org.uk)

Hastingleigh Parish Council  
[www.hastingleighpc.org.uk](http://www.hastingleighpc.org.uk)

Evington Hall (Bookings)  
([www.evingtonhall.org.uk](http://www.evingtonhall.org.uk))

Evington Hall Committee Hon Sec

ECP Hon Sec

Evington Gardeners Hon Sec

Evington Community Choir

Footpath Walks

**Mrs H Ransley** 01233 750949

Women's Institute

**Mrs J Bowes** 01233 811875

Parent and Toddler Group

**Mrs L Lawrence** 01233 750987

Neighbourhood Watch Hastingleigh

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Neighbourhood Watch Elmsted

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**Mrs H French** 01233 750483

**Mrs S Boxall** 01233 750206

**Mrs H Ransley** 01233 750949

**Mrs C Jeffery** 01233 750585



# February

## in Elmsted with Hastingleigh

**W**inter is upon us, although there are small signs of Spring approaching: spring bulbs are starting to peek above the soil. We were sad to hear of the loss of a much-loved member of our community, Pat Homer; she will be missed. Our regular contributors have written some interesting articles this month. The magazine is looking for a new treasurer, details on page 13: do get in contact if you are interested. If you have any photos, drawings or paintings of the local area, please send them in and they may feature on our front page (see p18). Subscriptions are due: please return your filled envelope to your distributor as soon as possible. Alternatively, you can pay by BACS, see p12 for details. 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: elmstedwithhastingleigh-news@yahoo.co.uk

Advertising: advertising.communitynews@gmail.com

Secretary: secretary.communitynews@gmail.com

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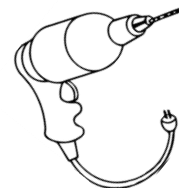
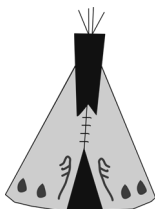
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*References available*

*Also*

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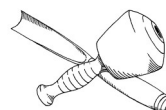
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# Hastingleigh with Elmsted WI

We've missed our meetings.

**O**ur last one was held in March 2020, when we had 'Speed W.I.' You may remember that night - the first Thursday in March brought rain and flooding of almost Biblical proportions, yet we still had plenty of members braving the awful roads, and our speaker wasn't put off. The meeting was the quickest meeting ever!

We've missed other regular meetings too – we have Group Meetings every six months where we get together with members from nearby W.I.s, have refreshments and listen to a speaker, and also our Annual Council Meeting which is held alternately in Margate or Folkestone. These meetings are where events and business affecting our East Kent Federation are discussed, we have well-known speakers, and because it is the W.I., there is always a raffle! I've been to a few of these meetings and have heard some wonderful talks by Prue Leith, Jennie Bond, John Craven, Michael Portillo and Terry Waite. We usually have two speakers at these meetings, one is a household name, and the other is perhaps local, or less well known, but inspirational. I can remember two women in particular - one from the Aspinall Foundation was so enthusiastic about her job, and the other was a female Tornado pilot who seemed to have to fight against barriers constantly in her career. We can either go to these meetings as a delegate or we can buy a ticket and go as a spectator. The meetings are very sociable outside of listening to the Speakers and business, and it is a lovely chance to catch up with friends.

I would also like to say how sad we were to hear of the death of our friend Pat Homer, a long standing member of our Institute. She will be missed.

Fiona Steward

**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

# St. Mary's Church

**M**any thanks to the kind person/s who cleared the church car park of leaves.

Also, thanks to Jean and her team for decorating the church for Christmas. It was sad that we were not able to hold any services but our beautiful church looked cared for and loved.

**The church is open.**

# Arthur Marsh Watercolours

**M**rs Elizabeth Marriot, who is now resident at Brambles, has returned 2 Arthur Marsh watercolours to Hastingleigh. If anyone would like one or all of them, they are large, framed and in need of homes!

Rovini – Yugoslavia

Berdum – Spanish Pyrenees

Please ask to see them if you are interested.

Roz Bacon 750327

# Virtual Coffee Mornings

**I**f you would like to join the Virtual Coffee Mornings but are not familiar with using Zoom then please email Robin Helmer on [robin.helmer@btinternet.com](mailto:robin.helmer@btinternet.com).

The dates are the **2nd & 4th Wednesday** of each month, commencing at **10.30 am**.

The login details are:

Meeting ID: **872 286 0605**

Passcode: **BR8JzH**

# Thank You!

**W**e are very proud of keeping the Community News going through this COVID-19 pandemic, when many other local magazines have had to suspend operations. This is largely due to our printers, Mickle Creative, who have kept going throughout the lockdowns and have continued to turn around our magazine on time. Having taken part in a very successful 'Community News' Annual General Meeting using their new Zoom facility, we would also like to say a big Thank You to the Evington Community Project for providing this very useful amenity for the whole community: we were able to meet and deal with necessary magazine business in order to keep our publication going for another year.

With many new contributors covering a broader range of interests, we hope we have provided some entertaining reading during the more tedious times of lockdown. We are looking forward to what the New Year brings, so please keep your contributions coming!

# Magazine Treasurer Needed

**O**ur long-serving 'Community News' Treasurer is retiring, so we wondered if anyone would help by stepping into her shoes. This is a voluntary position and does not require accountancy training; however, attention to detail is a key quality. Ours is a small online account with not many transactions. The busiest times are at the beginning of the year (February/March) when subs etc. are paid in, and the end of the year when accounts need to be prepared for the AGM. We are a small, friendly team, and we look forward to hearing from anyone who would like to help support the Community News.

# In The Garden



**W**et, wet, wet. Ah well, it is a British winter and as I have said before in this notebook the weather has changed – wetter winters and hotter summers.

A lot of plants have been flowering consistently throughout the winter – Jasmine by our back door has, at last, decided it's done flowering so this and similar plants can now be pruned back. Other Early spring flowering shrubs such as Christmas Box and Lonicera Fragrantissima seem to be flowering ever earlier with the mild winter weather that, only after New Year produced a series of frosts, most of which were light and gone in a few hours saving one when the temperature dropped to -6°C.

While the ground remains wet, suggesting that you prepare vegetable beds ready for spring planting next month will be met with a hollow laugh! So, indoor jobs if you can. Seed potatoes benefit from chitting on boxes or trays in a cool, frost free shed near the light so that the eyes can start to grow as this gives something of a head start when you are able to plant them out in the ground – soil temperature at least 10°C. Lawn mowers might need servicing so they remain trouble free during the summer. This is a specialist job and can be expensive. However, I run the petrol completely out of our 4-stroke engines until they stop and then put a small amount of Alkylate fuel such as Husqvana Power 4 (or Power 2 for 2-stroke engines) and start the mowers once a week. This fuel does not deteriorate like ordinary petrol, it's expensive but you do not need much at all. An oil change and a new sparking plug can keep them going happily a lot of the time.

Tidy the shed! Promise – I really will do mine.

If you have a greenhouse or a warm conservatory then seed sowing can start. I sow onions for storing early February and I favour 'Root Trainers' that have a 7.5 or 12.5 cm depth that provide a good amount of nutritious seed compost and really do encourage a strong root system. Onions can do with 22°C at least for germination and as they are slow growers that extra mount of compost feeds them well



before they are planted out in their bed in the spring. Likewise the first lettuce such as May Queen – in ordinary modules. These will be the first to be planted out and their harvest will follow that of Valdor lettuce that has been standing out all winter.

Another sowing that's good to get going early, if you haven't sown it in the autumn and kept protected all winter is sweet peas. I do so love the old-fashioned varieties with their Heavenly fragrance. Tender annuals including cosmos, lobelia, nasturtiums and snapdragons along with your first sowing of tomatoes can all be done this month

Early flowering bulbs that have finished for the year can be divided. Although it may still seem early in the year it is good to net fruit crops to keep the birds off the swelling buds of currant and gooseberry bushes after you have carried out any necessary spring pruning.

Fred

## Archiving The Community News

**A**t the AGM of the Community News I brought up the idea of archiving old copies of the Community News.

Sheila had kept copies from 2016 back to 1994 with a few from the 80's and so I've started scanning them as PDF's and once we get faster broadband I will shrink the files and put them onto a Community News website. Hopefully there will be links to the site from both Elmsted and Hastingleigh Parish Council sites and the Evington Hall site.

GDPR was brought to my attention and after Selina, Paul and myself had read many documents I contacted the ICO (Information Commissioner's Office) for advice. I was informed that because the magazine was in the public domain we were ok to proceed.

Hopefully the website will be available in March. Watch this space.

Sue Boxall

# Hastingleigh Stores

Interior shot - approx. 1989

**I**n fact this is 2 pics 'spliced' together to give a better 'panorama' of how it all looked.

The round backed chair in the middle foreground, which we still have, we call 'Molly's chair' ... after Molly Langford who was a regular supporter of the shop.

L to R: Alastair and Clare Gordon, Ewan Evans (DG's cousin), Lucinda



Ram raid pics March 1997

**I**recall that the safe was taken on the back of a flat bed truck and it fell off down the hill in Evington, so was retrieved.





Helen French

## Evington Community Project



# CLUB

The winning numbers for the December 2020 Draws are:

1st Prize: No. 22

2nd Prize: No: 27

3rd Prize: No: 50

Star Prizes: 62, 17, 113 and 19

Many thanks to all of the 100+ Club Members for your support.

The 100 Club renewals for 2021 have been sent out, if you haven't had a number and would like to be a member, please contact Robin on 01233 750236 or Tracey on 01233 750415 or email [evingtoncommunityproject@gmail.com](mailto: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.

# Front Cover Pictures

Calling all photographers and artists.



**W**e 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](mailto: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 lovely sketches of the two churches drawn by Arthur Marsh will hopefully still appear in the body of the magazine.

**February** cover photograph was taken by **Vanessa London** in Bodsham with a frosty view across to Elmsted.

## Subscriptions Due

**H**opefully you will have been given an envelope with your Community News this month. The annual subscription has once again stayed at £4 for the year.

Can I please ask you to put your subscription money into the envelope, write your name on the front and return it to your distributor as soon as possible.

If you would prefer to pay by BACS you will still need to return your envelope to your distributor but write on it 'Paid by BACS' and include your name.

AC Name: Elmsted with Hastingleigh Community News

SC: 60 01 21

AC: 74345451

**Please put your surname name as a reference.**

Treasurer - Community News



# Hastingleigh Wombles

Once again we find ourselves in lockdown and a little chore we have given ourselves is to do a bit of occasional “wombling”.

For those of you unfamiliar with the Wombles, they were a furry family who lived on Wimbledon Common and appeared on TV from 1973-1975 and reappeared from 1998-1999. The Wombles were years ahead of their time picking up litter that everyday folk left behind. They made good use of the litter they picked up. For us we made good use of our recycling bin.

There were 7 main characters at the beginning of the TV show and were called Great Uncle Bulgaria, Tobermory, Orinoco, Bungo, Tomsk, Wellington and Madame Cholet. Alderney joined them later on.



Anyhow, our “wombling” started in the first week of January and we set off from the crossroads as you approach Hastingleigh and walked to the North Downs footpath, a distance of about 0.45 miles. Madame Cholet thought one black bin bag would be enough but Uncle Bulgaria recommended two. An hour later both bags were full of litter including 20 items from McDonald’s, 32 tin cans, 30 plastic bottles, 10 glass bottles (including wine bottles) and 8 cigarette/tobacco packets.

We received toots, waves and thumbs up from approving motorists which helped us in our endeavours and we will continue “wombling” soon.

Madame Cholet & Uncle Bulgaria

### This month's church flowers and cleaning volunteers:

2021	St. Mary's Hastingleigh	St James' Elmsted
Jan 30 <sup>th</sup> Feb 6 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Morris Mrs French	Mrs Wright Mrs Thrupp
Feb 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb 20 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Boxall Mrs Pell	Mrs McFarlane Mrs Hewson
Feb 27 <sup>th</sup> Mar 6 <sup>th</sup>	Dr & Mrs Lawson Mrs Day	Mrs London, Ms Flitney Mrs Francesconi



*St James the  
Great  
Elmsted*



*St Mary the Virgin  
Hastingleigh*

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):  
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 mailto: revlorrainelawrence@icloud.com. Churchwardens: Mrs Bacon  
 01233 750327, Mrs R Doyle 01227 700296. United Wye Benefice 01233  
 813793 www.wyebenefice.org.uk



## Library Van

The mobile library van is now  
 due to come on **Tuesday**  
**16th February** 9.45 to 10.15  
 at Hall. Books have to be  
 pre-ordered and returned in a  
 plastic bag.

# ‘So They Do Say’

**I**n 1856, Mount Everest was declared to be 29,002ft. It has recently been agreed that it is now 29,032ft.

Between Christmas Day and New Year’s Day, divorce applications are almost double what they are during the rest of the year for a similar period.

It has been suggested that this carol be made politically correct: God rest ye merry gentlemen - and ladies, non-binary, transgender, gender neutral, pan-gender...

800 children die each day worldwide because they drink dirty water.

The Great Plague in London (1665 to 1666) killed almost one third of the population.

**Curious....**When the King of France, Charles 1V, asked the Faculty of the University of Paris to explain the causes of the Great Plague of 1348, the professors replied: **‘...the conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter brings about the death of peoples and the depopulation of kingdoms..’** On the 21 December 2020 occurred a conjunction of the planets Saturn and Jupiter, the closest since 1623 and only the fourth time it has happened since 1200. Anything to do with Covid...?

A 14<sup>th</sup> century joke: a merchant asks another, **‘Are you married?’** The second merchant responds. **‘I had three wives, but all hanged themselves from a tree in my garden.’** The first merchant, says, **‘Pray give me a cutting from this miraculous tree.’**

A two-year old racing pigeon, called **New Kim**, was bought by a Chinese bidder at auction for 1.4 million pounds.

78 countries worldwide are contaminated by land mines, which kill or maim 15,000–20,000 people every year, more than half of whom are children.

TW

# History Enthusiast

## More items of interest from Elmsted Parish Council meetings 1927-1945

**1927-1929:** Little recorded.

**1930:** Mr Curling elected counsellor vice Rev H Hammond; letter of appreciation sent to Rev Hammond for his services as a member of the Council.

**1931:** Counsellor Curling resigned; counsellors D Argar, A Ashley and W Twynham were of Whatsole Street (Dawltan Farm?), Great Holt Farm and Little Holt Farm respectively; census of 1931 gave population of parish as 231.

**1932:** Little recorded.

**1933:** Meeting held at Dundas Farm; following the 1932 Right of Way Act, footpaths reputed to be public rights of way were put on a map.

**1934:** C Bramley of Bodsham Cottage was elected counsellor.

**1935:** S Hopkins resigned as counsellor and elected clerk vice W Birch; one counsellor vacancy.

**1936:** Little recorded.

**1937:** Parish account opened with Westminster Bank Ashford.

**1938:** Little recorded.

**1939:** J Back and S Hopkins elected to serve on the rating authority; joint meeting with Hastingleigh to elected C Bramley as school manager.

**1940:** No meeting held.

**1941:** Col G Youard and S Hopkins elected to serve on the rating authority

**1942:** Tithe liability for the piece of land adjoining the school playground was repudiated.

**1943-1944:** No meetings held.

**1945:** Elham Rural District Council (ERDC) to be asked for 12 new houses in the Bodsham area; deputation made by Mrs Bramley, Mr Milton and Rev Stevens to ERDC regarding the state of roads.

(To be continued)

**History Enthusiast**



# Wye PPG - Covid Vaccines

**T**he only question on people's mind at the moment is 'when will they get the vaccine'? The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) : advice on priority groups for COVID-19 vaccination was published on 30 December 2020.

Residents in a care home for older adults and their careers.

Those over 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers.

Those of over 75 years of age and over.

Those 70 years of age & over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals.

Those 65 years of age and over.

All individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions.

All those 60 years of age and over.

All those 55 years of age and over.

All those 50 years of age and over.

It is estimated that taken together, these groups represent around 99% of preventable mortality from COVID-19. The UK Covid-19 Vaccines Delivery Plan published on 11 January 2021 aims to have offered a first vaccine dose to everyone in the top four priority groups by 15 February.

Wye Surgery is part of the Ashford Stour Primary Care Network (PCN). Hollington, Kingsnorth, Hayes Bank and Sellindge are the other members. It is the PCN who are in overall charge of the vaccinations which are taking place at the Musgrove Park Medical Centre, Beaver Road, Ashford, TN23 7SP. Staff from all five surgeries are deployed there on a rota system. By the time you receive this, the vaccine may also be given at GP Surgeries, as the Oxford Astra Zeneca vaccine does not have such exacting refrigeration requirements as that of the Pfizer BioNtech. The surgery will contact you to offer you an appointment. This may be at relatively short notice depending on vaccine deliveries.

Those who are symptom free, not self isolating and who are key workers and live and work in Kent can now book a regular swab test. The Ashford centre is near Junction 9 at Unit 1, Eurogate Business Park, Thomson Road, Ashford TN24 8AX. Getting a test will help to provide a more accurate picture of cases in Kent and will help reduce the spread of the virus locally. Information on how to book an appointment can be found at [kcc.healthit.org.uk](http://kcc.healthit.org.uk)

Judith Timms (Chair) Wye Surgery, Patient Participation Group.

# From The Vicarage

Warning, this article may contain nuts!  
(that's Necessary Use of Theological Substance)

**W**ell, here we are, in lockdown three! If somebody had told us this would be happening, this time last year, I think we would have all said, 'no, not here, it couldn't!' And in a way it does feel slightly surreal that it is happening. How it is impacting on people's lives varies enormously, from barely noticed any difference right through to total devastation.

I can't imagine what it must be like for those with young families who lives have been turned upside down by the loss of a parent or child, I can't know what it's like to not know where the next meal is coming from because the family income has been lost due to the impact of the virus.

I do feel that out here in the sticks, our lives are relatively easier than those in cities and large towns, because we have space, and fresh air, and room to exercise in pleasant surroundings. From that point of view we are, lucky. That is not to diminish in anyway the impact the virus has had on the lives of those it has touched.

But the question which seems to have caused a lot of debate and disagreement is, why have we closed the churches? In a situation like this, don't we need God more than ever? Well yes, we do, for those of us who seek him, now it does seem even more important. But guess what, God doesn't live in the church building! Now there's a well worn cliché, I know, but it's true, quite often I think, that's the last place to look for him! He is with us all, everywhere, in all we do, and feel and suffer. We don't need a special building to pray or to seek out some spiritual solace. Its wonderful to have somewhere but the church has done some of its greatest work and growth, at times and in places where there is nowhere special to meet, and yet people managed. Don't get me wrong, I love my four churches and I love going there, meeting with friends and those who share our faith,

joining in worship together and praising God.

But due to the virus, people meeting together, indoors, is the fastest way to spread the contagion, and so we need to be physically distanced. The church, as an organisation, has found as many varied ways to worship outside the building, as there were ways to worship inside the building. Virtual churches are being “attended” in much larger numbers than anyone could have predicted and thanks to modern technology, most of us are able to see and speak to those we can’t physically be with.

Somebody recently said to me, “But why aren’t the churches open, we need them more than ever, and surely we are a special case!” Well my answer is, YES we are a special case, in that we of all people should be able to be relied upon to do the right thing, and the right thing is not to be physically together under one roof. We need God, and prayer and mutual support, now more than ever, but luckily that isn’t confined to a building, it’s all of us.

God is best seen and met with in the care and affection of others. In the massive outpouring of concern that most of us are showing for each other. He’s in the community spirit that has us all looking out for the vulnerable, doing errands and shopping for those who can’t do their own.

God is in the hospitals with all the exhausted NHS staff and sitting by the bedsides of those who are sick or dying. God is everywhere we are, not just in a beautiful old building.

So don’t worry, we will be back together soon, in our churches and elsewhere, and hopefully we will take our caring Covid selves with us back to those wonderful buildings and continue to look outwards and ask; ‘What does our community need us to do for them today?’

Lots of love to everyone and let’s hope we can all be together again soon, to hug and comfort and (hopefully) sing. God Bless.

Lorraine

# Farming Notebook

**I** really do not know where to begin. We are in another lockdown because of Covid 19. Brexit has happened and there was a deal. And the weather is all over the place. Strange times...

Covid for us, like everyone else, is our biggest concern at the moment. Numbers infected, hospitalisations and deaths are now exceeding the first wave. Unlike previous lockdowns, this time the problem seems a lot closer to home. Several people in the village have tested positive, workers on other farms locally have succumbed, and all of us know people who have lost their lives. We strive to be careful, and the routines of hand washing, sanitisers, gloves and masks now seem normal. I still cannot stop my glasses fogging up when I am wearing a mask and it has proved impossible to remove my mask without the elastic being caught up in my glasses or removing one or both of my hearing aids!! As our neighbour says, “my ears were not designed to do so many jobs at once”.

Brexit has happened, and there was a deal. This has come as a great relief to most businesses, especially those who trade with the EC. Disruption so far has been minimal – despite the French deciding to close their borders just before Christmas. ( I am convinced this was more to do with the French saying this is what it will be like if we have no deal rather than the “English” or “Kentish” Covid variant). For farming, uncertain times are still ahead. All will depend on where the government put the goalposts. When we know where they are, we, as an industry will react as we always do. I live in hope that the disruption caused by relying on imports will encourage the government to value home produced goods. If we can produce it at home then we should. Value and cost are not the same. Buying on price alone will often lead to sourcing overseas, usually in the far east or China where labour is cheap. The value of buying from home is that it creates jobs and shortens the supply chain. It also upholds standards from wages to specifications for quality. This does not relate just to food, but also the manufacture and supply of PPE for example.

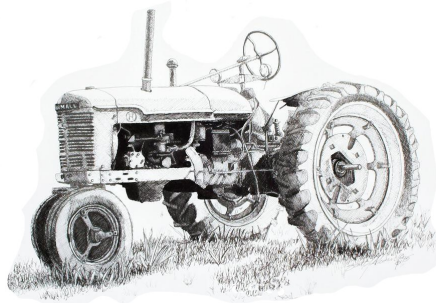
At home we have had the full spectrum of weather. Very, very wet, unseasonably mild, foggy, very cold and frosty and on one morning a covering of snow. We have, for the first time in a long time had to break the ice on the cattle drinking troughs. Any field work is out of the question. Soon the cattle yards will need clearing. Usually the dung is stockpiled on the field where it will be spread in the autumn. But it is too wet. We may have to make a temporary pile on a hard standing in the yard and move it later.

This Minnis cattle have almost finished calving – just one cow to go. We have some nice calves which are now very lively. When the cattle are let out of their barn to feed on some silage, the calves stay behind and then spend half an hour tearing round chasing each other. The last calf that we had was from an heifer (first time mum). The calving process was taking longer than we would like so we penned the cow for an examination. The calf was there, and alive, but the presentation was not normal. I tried for several minutes to correct matters, but to no avail. I have delivered countless calves, some less straightforward than others, but this one just did not feel right. Elizabeth and I made the decision there and then to call for the vet. 11.30pm on a Friday night – it is always thus! There is nothing worse for a vet than to have someone struggle for two hours, then call the vet, who then arrives only to deliver a dead calf. The 45 minute wait for the vet seemed such a long time.... Thankfully when the vet arrived the calf was delivered safely. Usually calves present with their front feet and nose together. In this case the feet were there, but the head was turned back. No matter how I tried, I could not get the head to stay in the correct position for delivery. The vet managed to achieve this by using an additional calving rope. One round each front foot and one around the head. Keeping a gentle pressure on all three ropes, and working with the contractions, allowed for a safe delivery. The cow then completely ignored her calf! The maternal bond was not as strong as the bond for more food (The cow is a Sussex unsurprisingly!!). Elizabeth warmed some colostrum which we had in the freezer, and added a litre of the whole milk which we collect from Ottinge to give the calf its first feed. Still we are feeding the calf on the bottle four times a day, but now it also gets two good

feeds a day from its mum. So long as the cow has some interesting food to eat out of a bucket then she stands still long enough for the calf to feed. Once the calf gets a little stronger we will let it out into the main pen with the other cows. It will then hopefully become an opportunist and take milk from any cow which will let it feed. The usual trick is to come to the udder from between the back legs, whilst the cow is letting its own calf feed along its flank.

For the first time in 30 years we have hundreds of sheep on the farm. As part of the management of our herbage seed we usually get sheep to graze the grass down fairly tight in the autumn. This encourages the grass to develop more tillers and better roots. Once the grazing is done the sheep are removed. This year we decided to offer all our grass for grazing. So, once the herbage seed had been grazed all the sheep were moved back to farm to work around all our pastures. They have done a great job. All the old grass has been eaten off and the sward trimmed back to allow good fresh growth in the spring. Andy Jakeman from Elmsted owns the sheep. He has been pleased to have the grass and we have been pleased to have the fields grazed. Perfect! The sheep breed is the Lleyen which is known for being a good grazer, being light on its feet, and hardy enough to lamb outside. The latter is Andy's worry not mine!!

Until next time. Keep safe and keep well.



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