

# Elmsted with Hastingleigh Community News

*St James the Great  
Elmsted*



*St Mary the Virgin  
Hastingleigh*

March 2020

40p



# Elmsted and Hastingleigh Community Contacts

Elmsted Parish Council

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Hastingleigh Parish Council

**Tracey Block** 01233 750415

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

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**Mrs H French** 01233 750483

ECP Hon Sec

**Mrs S Boxall** 01233 750206

Evington Gardeners Hon Sec

**Mrs H Ransley** 01233 750949

Evington Community Choir

**Mrs C Jeffery** 01233 750585

Art Group

**Mrs V Kerry** 01227 700843

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**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



# March

## in Elmsted with Hastingleigh

**D**espite the efforts of the recent storms, signs of Spring are springing up around us, daffodils starting to bud, crocuses blooming, although we are still waiting for the warmer weather Spring promises. The Jumble Sale was a great success, raising approximately £700, thank you to everyone that supported the event. This money has provided more equipment for the hall (p15). More ideas for events to raise funds for the hall are welcome (p15). Bodsham primary school is holding a quiz night on the 20th March to raise money for the school (p19). There is an update on the ultrafast fibre broadband on p17, which sounds promising. 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](mailto:elmstedwithhastingleighnews@yahoo.co.uk)

Advertising: [advertising.communitynews@gmail.com](mailto:advertising.communitynews@gmail.com)

Secretary: [secretary.communitynews@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.communitynews@gmail.com)

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

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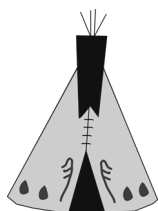
**Most aspects of Household and Garden Maintenance**

*References available*

*Also*

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# Hastingleigh with Elmsted Women's Institute

**H**astingleigh with Elmsted W.I. met on Thursday the 6th of February 2020 at the Evington Hall.  
20 members attended.

We discussed various items of business before our speaker, Mr Martin Newcombe, gave us a talk entitled Bats in the Belfry and Badgers on the Bypass. Mr Newcombe is a mammal and woodland specialist, a naturalist not a naturist! He carries out ecological surveys for buildings. He talked about detection of badgers and bats, and things that can be done when they are discovered in an area for development. We were told about signs which will show which types of bat are roosting. Long-eared bats will hover against walls, and pick off moths from flowers, which they then take back to their roost. The moth wings are not eaten and can be found scattered on the floor under the roost. Our corner of the North Downs has one of the highest density of badgers in England. Exposed bumblebee nests, scratching posts and latrines are all signs of badger activity. Technology helps to locate setts but the old methods still have their uses, particularly when tracking badgers routes and areas. During repairs to the sea wall at Dymchurch, a badger sett was discovered that had 22 entrances. The badgers were moved to a new artificial sett; which takes 21 days to allow the badgers to relocate and the old sett can be removed, following a set procedure.

The Flower of the Month winner for February was Mrs Jill Agar, with a blue anemone and the winner of the February competition, a charity shop wildlife bargain, was Jean Bowes, with a hedgehog ornament.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday the 5th March at 7.30 p.m., in the Evington Hall, where we will be having a talk on How to Declutter and Organise your Wardrobe. Any new members will be made most welcome.

Marie Wenham



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# In The Garden

**N**ow at last we can look forward to some real spring weather and gardening proper can start. A very wet winter and, latterly stormy from Ciara and Dennis will hopefully be past and there is much to do in all directions. The prolonged wet winter has set back the seasonal work.

With drying winds both the soil and the lawn grass need attention. If your mower is in good order, and may be serviced, then you should get off to a flying start. Those with electric mowers may have little to do but clean them off and make sure the blade(s) are sharp. Petrol mowers can suffer from neglect and my plan now is to start any petrol mower regularly throughout the winter. A small amount of Alkalate petrol (so expensive!) in the tank does not deteriorate like ordinary petrol and will help keep things going. Otherwise best to run until the machine is clean out of fuel so no stale petrol is hanging around to cause starting problems. Look out for twigs and small windblown branches and cut high the first time.

As the flower and vegetable beds dry out they will benefit from a hoeing or at the very least a light forking over. It is a good time to plant out onion and shallot sets so that the top is just at the surface of the soil. First early potatoes can also be sown. I usually chit mine in daylight (but not too warm) so they will start a bit of growing before they are planted but the benefits of this are controversial and I would not delay the planting just because they have not been chitted. A bit later in the month the first sowing of peas can be made. The round seeded varieties such as Feltham First seem to withstand somewhat lower soil temperatures and, in any event, peas are an early crop in the garden as later they will not like high temperatures, which bring fungus on the leaves and, as the pods begin to swell, that's when they need plenty of moisture in the soil which can mean essential watering to get a good harvest.

Early March is not too late to prune roses by cutting to an outward facing bud. For hybrid tea roses reduce all growth to no more than



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Paul 07940983052 [paul s harris@sky.com](mailto:paul_s_harris@sky.com)



## In The Garden Cont.

30cm above ground. Shrub roses will improve if weak or damaged stems are entirely removed at base level and open up the centre. Other shoots should be shortened by a third. On the climbing roses side branches should be cut back and new strong shoots tied in. Ornamental grasses can be cut right down now, encouraging new growth for later in the year.

This is the time when the small tree *Magnolia stellata* comes into flower and is covered with the magnificent white blooms. And, while I think about it, we often see our first butterfly in March – the Brimstone – a striking pale sulphur yellow that lives up to its name. They are medium sized and both sexes have an orange spot on each wing. You know spring has come if you see one of these long-lived butterflies.

Early flowers can be dead-headed and it's worth while planning for daffodils and narcissi for next spring as the bulbs will have to be planted in the summer. *Narcissus lobularis* is the true wild daffodil but you will have to keep a sharp eye out for these are rarely offered in catalogues. A similar type is the *N. obvallaris* which is slightly taller but is happy naturalising in grass.

Out of the garden we are blessed with the wonderful sight of the wild early spring flowers on roadside banks, aconites, wood anemones, cowslips, celandines and primroses.

Fred



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# Wye PPG

**T**he new Kent and Medway Medical School - helping to transform medical provision in Kent.

There is an acute national shortage of GPs and Kent has one of the highest ratios of number of patients per doctor in the country. It also has one of the highest proportions of GPs over 50 and nearing retirement. Put this alongside a rapidly expanding population in the county and you have a situation in which one GP can be responsible for overwhelming numbers of patients. Meanwhile, there is a continuing crisis in GP and nursing recruitment and training, so posts are increasingly difficult to fill and skills are being spread more and more thinly.

The news that the new Kent and Medway Medical School at Canterbury is recruiting its first cohort of medical students for September 2020 is heartening. It will offer a five-year Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (BM BS) degree awarded jointly by Canterbury Christ Church University and the University of Kent. The medical school, which is the first in Kent and Medway, will be working in partnership with Brighton and Sussex Medical School for support and quality assurance purposes. The new medical school will provide a regional centre for medical education and research and will expand the area's health capability.

The course will be broadly based offering opportunities and experience to practice medicine across primary care, acute care, community and mental health settings, as well as the major medical and surgical specialties. In February, the Pears Foundation announced a welcome £2 million pound donation, which will be used to provide medical students with a new 150 lecture theatre and a GP simulation suite - the first in the UK. The medical school is due to open in July 2020 and has been overwhelmed with 1,500 applications for its 100 places. It is very encouraging that there are so many young people who want to become doctors and it is expected that Kent GP surgeries will benefit from the greater availability of medical students on clinical placements during the next few years and that a good

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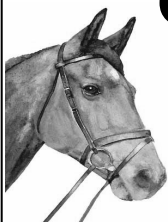
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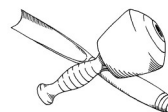
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## Wye PPG cont.

proportion of those who study in Kent will chose to stay and work in the county. Nevertheless, it will be five years before this vital new generation of young doctors complete their degrees and in the meantime GP surgeries will remain under great pressure.

Judith Timms PPG Chair.

---

## ‘So they do say...!’

**A**t the recent Village sale, Mrs Chizzit was there , a regular at sales and especially antique shops, the dealers knowing her well.

She wanders around picking up objects at random and calling out her name, ‘Emma Chissit?’

Here lies the body of Edward Hyde.  
We laid him here because he died  
We had rather  
It had been his father  
If it had been his sister  
We should not have missed her.  
But since ‘tis honest Ned  
No more shall be said.

Storrington, W. Sussex

‘I am half Muslim and half Christian, so I guess that makes me a Christmus’  
Gina Yashire

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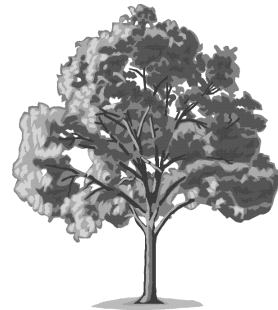
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# Evington Gardeners

Our December meeting was to be a Quiz evening, but, unfortunately, due to the hospitalisation of our quizmaster, this event didn't happen. However, we are very grateful to Trevor, who very kindly agreed to arrange a musical soiree for us at short notice. Together with his students, he took us through the history of the flute, demonstrating a variety of antique and rare instruments and giving us a snapshot of his life as a professional flautist. This was followed by cheese and wine. A huge thank you to Trevor for a very entertaining evening.

At our January meeting, Yvonne introduced Martin Newcombe, an ecologist and a man of Kent, who spoke about *Taxus baccata*, the European yew. He began with a list of settlement names from around the country that are derived from yew, not always obvious, demonstrating the importance of the yew tree through time. After giving us a brief history of the yew, he continued with the scientific information pertaining to this highly toxic plant before entertaining us with some of the folklore and myths that surround this mystical tree species. Unfortunately, his laptop caused problems, inconveniently deciding it wanted an update, which meant we were unable to enjoy all the visual aspects of the presentation. Nevertheless, it was an interesting and entertaining evening, packed with facts about this intriguing tree which has fascinated people for hundreds of years. Yew trees are found, in different types, across the globe and date back millions of years, to when dinosaurs and the first birds were around. They are conifers, but bear "berries" not cones. These "berries" are not technically berries but arils, and are open ended. Whilst the wood and seeds are highly toxic, the sweet fleshy red coating is edible and rich in vitamin C and other trace elements. The North American yew has become close to extinction because it contains a chemical found to have cancer fighting properties and was over harvested before a synthetic version of the chemical was developed. Yew trees contain a natural insecticide and supports only six insect species, as opposed to oaks and willows which provide

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## Gardeners cont.

habitats for hundreds of different species. Yews are extremely hardy, and can seemingly come back from the dead, generating new growth from inside, incidentally making it hard to date from the rings. A bronze age axe head was found encased within an old yew in Essex. Yews are often found in churchyards, and statistics show that female trees grow at the east end and males at the west end of the church, and that the trees can pre-date the building.

The next meeting is on the 18th February at 7pm. The speaker is Ms Melody Foreman and the talk is entitled "A spitfire girl: Mary Ellis"

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# Evington Hall Annual Jumble Sale

**T**he Jumble sale on 25<sup>th</sup> January was well attended and has raised about £700 so far. Many thanks to everyone who donated, set up, manned the stalls and cleared up afterwards. A quantity of money was found in the jumble, please contact us if you know anything.

This money has gone towards buying more comfortable chairs, storage trolleys for the tables and new folding chairs.

Maintaining your Hall is costly, we depend on fund raising events, revenue from Hall hire and income from the solar panels. We, the Committee, put on the Christmas Fayre and the Jumble Sale.

It would be great if parishioners were able to put on events during the year to keep funds coming in. Please also recommend the Hall as a venue to Hire. The Hall website ([www.evingtonhall.org.uk](http://www.evingtonhall.org.uk)) has all the details.

Please contact us with any ideas:

Helen French, Secretary ([Secretaryevh@gmail.com](mailto:Secretaryevh@gmail.com))

Kate Day, Trustee ([kateday80@hotmail.com](mailto:kateday80@hotmail.com)) Thank you.



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# Ultrafast Fibre Broadband Update

**H**astingleigh and Neighbours Network Development (HANND) has now received a quote from Openreach to install the necessary infrastructure to bring ultrafast fibre broadband to homes and businesses connected to the Elmsted exchange. Openreach has said that this will cost £229,000.

As of February 18, 112 households and businesses have indicated to us that they would be interested in signing up to take fibre broadband. This means that we should be able to secure enough public funding to go ahead with this project.

## **What happens next?**

Openreach will launch a website for residents and businesses to register their intention to take fibre when it becomes available

When Openreach has enough registrations from our community to cover the cost of the scheme, it will start work

Openreach will then apply to both the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and Kent County Council for sufficient funding vouchers to pay for the entire project

The DCMS will contact all those who have registered with Openreach to confirm that they are happy for publicly funded vouchers to be used to pay for the project

All those who wish to take fibre broadband will need to sign a new contract with a telecoms provider (BT, for instance) although this will only be necessary when the new fibre infrastructure has been installed

## **How long will this take?**

From this point, it is likely that fibre broadband will be up and running about 12 months from now

## **What can you do now?**

Watch out for leaflets, emails and other publicity about the new website where you will need to register your interest with Openreach. We will need everybody who indicated an initial interest to register if the project is to go ahead. Feel free to email us at [hannd.tech@gmail.com](mailto:hannd.tech@gmail.com) if you need further information. We will provide further updates on progress when we have them.



# VE 75 Celebrations

**...SAVE THE DATE...8<sup>th</sup> MAY 2020...**

Plans have begun to organise a community celebration to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day.

Evington Community Project and Elmsted and Hastingsleigh Parish Councils are working together to organise an afternoon/evening of celebration.

More details to follow



## ECP 100 Club 2020

**M**any thanks to those of you who have signed up for another year of 100 Club draws.

There are 2 unclaimed numbers left – if you would like to take them, please contact Robin Helmer or Tracey Block.

The first draw for 2020 will be on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Friends of Bodsham Church of England Primary School**

# QUIZ NIGHT

**Friday 20th March**

**7pm for 7:30pm start  
Evington Hall,  
Hastingleigh TN25 5HR**

**Ploughman's supper  
provided, please bring  
your own drinks.**

Tickets £10 each available  
in advance from Abi King  
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Teams of 6 - 8  
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## Church Services for March in the Parish Upon The Hills

<u>Date</u>		
01/03	First Sunday	09:30 – Petham– Group service for Elmsted, Hastingleigh, Petham & Waltham.
08/03	Second Sunday	08.00- Waltham – BCP Communion 11.00- Petham – Communion
15/03	Third Sunday	09:30 Waltham - Communion 11:00 Hastingleigh - Communion 11:00 Petham - Family Service (No Communion) 17.00 Elmsted - Choral Evensong
22/03	Fourth Sunday (Mothering Sunday)	09.30 Waltham 11:00 Hastingleigh - BCP Communion 11:00 Petham - Family Communion
29/03	Fifth Sunday	10:30 Benefice service at Petham – all churches

Church flowers and cleaning volunteers:		
	St Mary's	St James'
Feb 29 <sup>th</sup> Mar 7 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Boxall Mrs Pell	Mrs Wright Mrs Thrupp
Mar 14 <sup>th</sup> Mar 21 <sup>st</sup>	Mrs Morris Mrs French	Mrs McFarlane Mrs Hewson
Mar 28 <sup>th</sup> Apr 4 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Bacon Mrs Geering Mrs Sharp, Mrs Hill	Mrs London, Ms Flitney Mrs Francesconi

## Diary Dates - March

Mon	2nd	ECP AGM	19.30 - 21.00
Tues	3rd	Toddler Group	09.30 - 11.30
		Library Van	09.45 - 10.15
Wed	4th	Coffee Morning	10.30 - 11.30
		Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00
Thurs	5th	W.I. Meeting	19.30 - 22.00
Sun	8th	Footpath Group	14.00
Tues	10th	Toddler Group	09.30 - 11.30
		Hastingleigh PC Meeting	19.30 - 22.00
Wed	11th	Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00
Thurs	12th	Elmsted PC Meeting	19.30 - 21.00
Fri	13th	Whist	19.00 - 22.00
Tues	17th	Toddler Group	09.30 - 11.30
		Library Van	09.45 - 10.15
		Gardeners	19.30 - 22.00
Wed	18th	Evington Community Choir	19.00 - 21.00
Fri	20th	Bodsham PTA Quiz	19.00 - 22.30
Sat	21st	Charity Quiz Night	18.00 - 22.00
Tues	24th	Toddlers	09.30 - 11.30
Tues	31st	Toddlers	09.30 - 11.30
		Library Van	09.45 - 10.15

The above dates are taken from the Evington Hall website calendar  
([www.evingtonhall.org.uk](http://www.evingtonhall.org.uk))

***All events at the village hall unless otherwise stated***

**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:** Mrs Bacon  
01233 750327, Mrs R Doyle 01227 700296. **United Wye Benefice** 01233  
813793 [www.wyebenefice.org.uk](http://www.wyebenefice.org.uk)

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS at ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, HASTINGLEIGH**



All events will be at 7pm for 7.30pm,  
with refreshments.

### **Friday 24th April**

A concert by

**The Chamber Choir of King's School**, Canterbury.

A varied musical programme, and a delightful  
opportunity to hear these talented young people.

Tickets £7.50 on the door.

### **Saturday, 16th May.**

A talk on

**Wildlife Conservation in Our Local Area**

by **Dan Tuson**, East Kent Manager of  
Natural England's Kent Downs.

### **Saturday, 13th June**

A talk:

**"Canterbury Goes Viral!"**

by **Father Rodney Schofield**.

2020 is the 800th anniversary of the removal of  
Becket's body from the tomb to the glittering shrine,  
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# Gardeners February

**A**t our February meeting, Charles introduced Melody Foreman, whose presentation, entitled “A Spitfire Girl”, told the remarkable story of Mary Ellis, one of Britain’s early female aviators who played a major role delivering aircraft around the country during WW2. Melody Foreman met Mary Ellis in 2012, on a “Fly with a spitfire” experience day and has written her biography.

Born in 1917, Mary lived on a farm near Brize Norton in Oxfordshire and was an accomplished musician, but had wanted to fly since an early age. Inspired by a 5 shilling flight with a flying circus, she managed to swap hockey lessons at school for flying lessons and became one of the youngest females to obtain a flying licence. When the Air Transport Auxiliary was formed at the outbreak of WW2, women pilots were not considered able to fly war planes– “women may break the planes”! However, in 1941 the government allowed women to fly and Mary joined the ATA and would deliver up to 5 planes a day to RAF bases across the country. She flew a variety of planes with only a hand book for guidance, and advice from colleagues, but spitfires were always her favourite.

After the war she was one of the first female pilots to test fly the meteor, at 500mph, but after several months she was no longer required by the RAF, and became a chauffeur pilot for a business man. In 1950, she was manager of Sandown airport on the Isle of Wight and became Europe’s first female air commandant. She lived on IOW until her death in 2018 at the age of 101.

This presentation gave us a fascinating insight into the stories of these brave women who ferried new and damaged aircraft for the RAF, amid prejudice and hostility from their male counterparts.



---

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# Farming Notebook

**A**s storm Dennis lashes against the windows I thought that I would look back to the March farmer's notebook for previous years to gain some inspiration for this month's article. There seems to be a common thread, and that is that February is a horrible month!

Sometimes cold, with snow lying all around, but usually wet and miserable. The latter certainly applies to 2020. On February 10th we recorded just over 500mm of rain since the beginning of October. No wonder the fields are saturated. The eve of storm Ciara was the most beautiful spring day, and we managed to get the last of the fertiliser spread on the wettest of the wheat fields. Then the storm hit with very strong winds, power cuts, fallen trees and an additional 25mm of rainfall – back to square one....

It can be very depressing looking out at the fields with great lakes of standing water, seeing the rain driving right in to the cattle yards and there being no prospect of any field work for some considerable time. But we are lucky in comparison to many. People with their homes flooded, some for the third time in the last five years, towns with torrents of water running through the high street, and many farmers in the "bread basket" of Britain without a single seed in the ground. I am desperate not to moan about the weather and complain about the incessant rain, because I know that as soon as I do it will not rain for months and drought will be the problem!

As always at this time of the year we have our "Red Tractor" farm assurance inspections for arable crops, for the beef, and for potatoes. We have files and files of paperwork at the ready with training records, certificates of competence, cleaning records, temperature and moisture records for stored crops to name but a few. The inspector, who was very helpful, needed to check that all the chemicals in our spray shed were "in date" and all still legal for use. Every year active ingredients are withdrawn from our toolbox of plant protection products, and these must have been used up and no longer on the shelf. He also made a thorough inspection of the grain store and cattle yards. Drug records for the cattle are a particular hot topic. We only ever use medicines on the cattle with the direct guidance of the vet. A calf with a nasty abscess on its ear, and a cow with a cut foot-probably caused by a flint in the pasture-both needed a course of antibiotic. We have to show the vet's prescription, the batch number of the



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## Farming Notebook Cont.

antibiotic, the days on which it was administered and most importantly that the animal stayed with us for the whole of the withdrawal period. This ensures that no traces of the antibiotic can enter the food chain in milk or meat. Both animals are still here, fully recovered and well beyond the withdrawal period.

I am pleased to say that we have passed our inspection for another year. February is a month where there tend to be meetings hosted by a variety of companies supplying the agricultural sector. The lure of a full English breakfast on a wet miserable day is usually enough to get a good attendance! At one such meeting there was an interesting talk on the future of farming. It was suggested there are three possible routes which the industry could find itself on – the final direction of travel will not be the choice of the farmer, but the rule makers...

First there was “museum agriculture”. This model seems to be favoured by the EU and in effect is driven by politics and not science. The withdrawal of a swathe of chemicals which have allowed plentiful harvests and cheap food all because there are traces in the “parts per billion” are political decisions. Until recently there was only the technology to detect parts per million. The word “carcinogen” is often cited but with no yardstick to measure the risk. Practically everything is bad for you if taken in sufficient quantity. Coffee, alcohol, fat, salt, carbohydrates, processed meat... the list goes on. If dishwasher powder was an agrochemical, we would have to dress up in full protective clothing to be able to handle it safely! This model is certainly pursued by those with the luxury of plentiful food and full stomachs. (What happens this autumn when, with only 50% of the national wheat crop actually planted, and yields likely to be down on the crops that have been planted, we are looking of a shortfall of several million tonnes of wheat? This scenario is repeated over northern Europe, and Australia, a big wheat exporter, is facing the worst drought in recent years. How many parts per billion will be acceptable then?)

Next comes “Boutique agriculture”. This is perceived to be the gold standard. An example of this are organic farming. There are those who choose to buy this type of produce, but they can afford to do so. It is not the answer to feeding 7.7 billion humans. This figure is increasing by 2 million every week!!

Lastly, there is “Vibrant agriculture”. This is one that embraces new

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## Farming Notebook cont.

technology, whilst maintaining biodiversity and the environment. Farmers know that the soil is key to productivity. Looking after the structure, flora and fauna of soils is paramount. Vibrant agriculture would use the tools now available in plant breeding and new technologies to increase productivity for a growing population, whilst at the same time reducing the use of chemicals. Seems sensible doesn't it? But use terms like gene editing, autonomous vehicles, aerial spraying from a drone and the media and politicians run for the shelter of the museum!

It is lunchtime. It is pouring with rain and I have to make a dash for the backdoor from the office. Dennis has only added 17.8mm of rain to the running total. So far.....



W Wilson-Haffenden



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